

The staff of the EU-Japan Centre wishes you a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013**

EU-JAPAN CENTRE 25TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

In Search for Growth: Towards a New Role for SMES in EU-Japan Relations



This publication specifically marks the new strategic focus of the Centre on SMEs for the coming years.

The topic of SME internationalisation is approached from several angles and perspectives. The issue of trade and market access to Japan is extensively treated, including views from industrial sectors as diverse as aerospace and footwear, and the cross-cultural aspects are also tackled.

The recent EU policy strategy is analysed and the publication is further enriched with the inclusion of two recent seminar reports on specific aspects of SME internationalisation.

The picture is further completed by the results of a survey on obstacles, opportunities and the needs of support conducted among a sample of European SMEs investing or wishing to expand in Japan, and by a number of testimonials from SMEs which benefited from the Centre's training programmes and subsequently made it "Big in Japan".

Since the publication is built upon opinions of authors with different professional backgrounds (policy makers, academics, business consultants) and levels of experience with Japan, the content might appear uneven at times but yet even more relevant for the diversity of views and issues that are part of the EU-Japan "mosaic".

The publication will be available online at the below link:
http://documents.eu-japan.eu/media/publications/sme_25years.pdf



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 quarterly 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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25 YEARS
周年



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

Strategies for Promoting the Internationalisation of Small & Medium Enterprises in the EU and Japan

Tokyo, Japan, 21 November 2012

SMEs are considered as an important source of growth and jobs in both European and Japanese economies, and “going international” is one factor for enhancing SMEs’ growth potential. Promoting the internationalisation of SMEs is becoming increasingly important as a policy priority in both the EU and Japan.



The EU-Japan Centre organised a seminar on this issue for the first time in Tokyo with the objective to set in motion an EU-Japan policy exchange process on this topic of mutual interest. Nearly 130 stakeholders attended the event, including representatives of Japanese regional prefectures (Aomori, Chiba, Fukuoka, Hyogo, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Nagasaki, Shiga, Yamagata) and cities (Hamamatsu, Himeji, Kita-Kyushu, Kobe, Omura, Sagami-hara, Saitama, Tsu).

In the first part of the seminar, speakers from the EU and Japanese public authorities presented the latest developments in SME policy and highlighted the observations and rationales behind the current policy objectives. In the second session, perspectives from industry were presented to identify best practices, success stories and policy recommendations.

The main issues discussed in the seminar made it clear that Europe and Japan share many common elements when it comes to SMEs and therefore there are many areas for possible cooperation. There were also observations that, for European SMEs targeting the Japanese market, extra challenges exist as Japan continues to be perceived as a “different” and difficult market.

The EU-Japan Centre has worked for 25 years to play a role in “demystifying” the Japanese market and will continue to reinforce its activities and services for helping European and Japanese SMEs find opportunities in each other’s markets. A full report and presentations of the seminar are available at:



http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/internationalisation_sme_21112012.html?year=2012

EU-Japan Partnership for the Future - Economic Partnership Agreement and Business Activities

Brussels, Belgium, 25 October 2012



On the very day on which the European Parliament voted in favour of the opening of trade negotiations with Japan, and one month before the Council is scheduled to decide whether or not to grant the European Commission a negotiating mandate, the EU Studies Institute in Tokyo (EUSI) and the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation organised a seminar. This event, hosted by the European Economic & Social Committee (EESC), traced the history of EU-Japan trade relations and looked forward to what form future trade relations might take.

Following opening remarks by Prof. Takamoto Sugisaki (Tsuda College), Jonathan Peel welcomed participants on behalf of the EESC before Prof. Toshiro Tanaka (Keio University & EUSI) gave the keynote address entitled: “EU-Japan Relations: from Trade Conflicts to Strategic Partners”. Antonio Parenti (European Commission, DG TRADE) and H.E. Kojiro Shiojiri (Mission of Japan to the EU) summarised the views and strategies of their respective authorities and answered questions from the audience.

In the final session, Carsten Dannöhl presented the view of BUSINESSEUROPE and Koshi Noguchi presented the view of Toshiba, with particular emphasis on how an EPA/FTA might affect the firm’s healthcare division.



http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/partnership_future_seminar_25102012.html?year=2012

J-BILAT FINAL SEMINAR

Tokyo, Japan, 6 December 2012

“EU-Japan Cooperation and Various Phases of Science, Technology and Innovation: Sharing Vision and Scope for Reinforcement of Reciprocity”.

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation has been promoting Japanese participation in the EU’s 7th Framework Programme (FP7) through the J-BILAT project since January 2010.

In this final event within the J-BILAT framework project various aspects and phases of EU-Japan cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) has been reviewed with the objective of sharing visions towards further reinforcement of EU-Japan cooperation in STI.



http://www.j-bilat.eu/seminar/AS-en_5

WORKSHOP

Brussels, Belgium, 27 November 2012

The challenges and business opportunities for EU SMEs in Japan and how intermediary organisations can help SMEs seize them.



This workshop looked at why Japan should be an attractive market for European SMEs; the issues they face when exporting or investing there, how support strategies should be rethought to ensure that SMEs get effective help; the results of a survey of the views of SMEs that are currently actively engaged with Japan or have a strong intention to do so; and support programmes organised and run by the European Commission, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and the role for the Enterprise Europe Network.

Participants heard the experiences of a European who has been in Japan for 30 years and of a Slovenian SME that has established a subsidiary in Japan, together with the views of other experts from Japan and Europe.



http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/sme_internationalisation_27112012.html?year=2012

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

4/5 weeks training programme in Japan for EU managers

DATE: 7 May - 31 May/7June 2013

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 28 February 2013

The "Human Resources Training Programme - Japan Industry Insight" (HRTP) lasts four to five weeks and offers EU executives with a unique opportunity to experience and understand both the cultural and economic elements which define and explain Japan's business and technological achievements. The HRTP programme was designed to improve on a constant basis the latest expectations about the business situation in Japan, as well as providing a professional Japan related expertise to EU businessmen.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES

The course is designed to provide participants with basic Japanese communication skills (Business and daily life), comprising an introduction to the language structure and its complexity. A strong emphasis is placed on the importance of knowing how something is said, especially regarding aspects such as age, gender, hierarchical position and situation.

JOINT SESSION WITH JAPANESE BUSINESS PEOPLE

During the session HRTP-participants can discuss about their experiences with Japanese executives (in small groups). Some of the exercises include decision-making, team management and negotiation role-plays.

GROUP COMPANY VISITS

A wide range of companies is carefully selected, ranging from car manufacturers to traditional «Sake» breweries.

NEW CONDITIONS

for participating EU companies:

SMEs are eligible for a grant from the European Commission to cover costs related to transportation and lodging expenses in Japan: €3000 and have no tuition fee to pay.

A tuition fee €1000 will be asked for non SMEs



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

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1 Week World Class Manufacturing Training Missions in Japan

World Class Manufacturing is a training mission in Japan for EU managers working in manufacturing companies.

WCM I: Training dates: 01 - 05 July 2013 - Application deadline: Thursday, 28 March 2013

WCM II: Training dates: 15 - 19 October 2013 - Application deadline: Thursday, 7 June 2013



The training mission in Japan provides with:

- In-depth analysis of Japanese manufacturing methodology;
- Lectures, seminars and panel discussions, presented by experts from Japanese industry;
- Company and factory floor (Gemba) visits;
- Preparation and post-visit reviews.

No tuition fee for SMEs and the European Commission grants €600 scholarships to participants from SMEs.



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

TESTIMONIAL

Joining HRTP was a great decision.

The programme has been very useful for my professional and personal development. Company wise, I would say that the main benefit is to have a better understanding of the uniqueness of the Japanese society and the impact it has on how Japanese companies are ruled.

Being immersed in Japan during 4 weeks will also help me ease the communication with our Japanese customers/prospects. It should, I hope, result in increasing our business presence in Japan. We have a short/mid-term plan to set up an office in Tokyo and I also got many answers during HRTP program on how to do go for it, mainly on a legal aspect.



Jean-François CLAUDE
Branch Manager
Arkamys (FR)



Joint session meeting during the Programme

CALL FOR TENDER

Call for tender to perform auditing procedures on the cost reporting of the FP 7 project entitled "J-BILAT"

More details on:

<http://documents.eu-japan.eu/JBILATAuditor.pdf>

EU Cluster Mission to Japan

From 12 to 15 November 2012, a delegation composed of 17 participants representing the most innovative European clusters and SMEs in the field of Green Materials and Clean Technology came to Japan, during the Green Innovation Expo 2012 in order to establish contacts with Japanese clusters and SMEs in view of further collaboration.

The mission was supported by the European Commission in the framework of an initiative promoting international cluster cooperation for SMEs, and co-organised by the EU-Japan Centre and Fondation Sophia Antipolis, with the support from inno TSD and ERAI regarding the organisation and the follow-up, and Clusterland and Zenith ensuring the promotion of the event.

The mission included presentations of the cleantech environment in Japan by Japanese and European experts: encounters

with Japanese actors of the sector (Fukuoka i3 Center for Organic Photonics and Electronic Research, Yamaguchi Green Valley, Tokai Region Nanotechnology Manufacturing Cluster), visits to local companies (Keystone Technology Inc., Kawasaki Biomass Co., Ltd) and culminated in 2 days of the Green Innovation Expo 2012 where a common EU booth presented the clusters, SMEs and ongoing internationalisation projects such as the WIINTECH project.

The mission helped the European participants to establish a first contact with clusters and SMEs in Japan and it also created synergies between the different European clusters and SMEs representatives who spent a few exciting days together in Japan.



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



Vulcanus in Japan – Student exchange programme Application open for EU students



My year on the Vulcanus programme was awesome!

The experiences I had and the amazing people that I got to know made it the most memorable year of my life.

James Matthews, participant 2011-12, UK
Host company: Hitachi Rail

Upon moving to Japan my main goal was to gain a sufficient level of Japanese language and through that, make friends and learn about Japanese culture first-hand. The intensive training received by the Naganuma school certainly helped me achieve this and together with other Vulcanus participants, I was able to advance rapidly. The teaching method at the language school was intense, but it just made me more motivated to go that extra step, which led me to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test level 3 and succeed.

The language course was done in Tokyo, which was perfect as you could immediately practice what you had learnt through everyday interactions and socialising with Japanese people at bars and clubs. What was also great is that I was able to learn a lot about cultures from fellow countries in Europe from other Vulcanus participants, as we spent a lot of time together in class and outside.

The second part of the internship took me to Kudamatsu City in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Working for a traditional Japanese company, Hitachi Rail gave me such an authentic experience, which would not have been possible if it wasn't for the EU-Japan Centre. Working there I was able to become a member of the international project team and help design a new train for England (Intercity Express Program), partaking in a big project and given real responsibility. This enabled me to use a lot of engineering knowledge from university and learn a lot about international business in a large company. My work colleagues were also extremely friendly. Apart from the many nomikai (drinking parties), they took me on trips, including snowboarding in Hiroshima and a 6-hour bike ride from Honshu to Shikoku.

The Vulcanus programme has also opened up many doors and opportunities for me, as I advance on to the next stage of my career: working as a sales engineer for Village Island Asia in Singapore. (http://www.village-island.com/en/company_profile/message.html)

Created by a former Vulcanus in Japan participant (Michael Van Dorpe), this successful and rapidly developing company will allow me to build upon my talents and make use of the experience and knowledge gained from my year in Japan.



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

SURVEY for EU SMEs

Are you a SME who works or wishes to work with/in Japan?

What better business support would you need?

The EU-Japan Centre is conducting a survey among EU SMEs who may be encountering difficulties when working or wishing to work with or in Japan and we would greatly appreciate receiving your feedback by filling in this online questionnaire: <http://goo.gl/GBGyj>

Your kind help will enable EU authorities to help business support services map closely to your exact needs and requirements, and allow you to be notified of new support as soon as it becomes available.



<http://goo.gl/GBGyj>

BizTips! Contract negotiation

In Japan, decisions are not taken alone, but collectively. Therefore during negotiations, it is advisable to inform the Japanese side of new developments in good time, so they can vote internally and discreetly. In any case, avoid unexpected surprise revelations during negotiation – if this happens, expect the hearing to be postponed.

Source: EU-Japan Centre's "Distribution and Best Practices in Japan 2010" mission report

European Commission Adopts 2013 Work Programme

In his State of the Union address on 12 September, President Barroso set out an ambitious vision for the EU. The overarching task remains to return the EU to sustainable growth. This is the number one task, and it requires new thinking and targeted action in a limited number of key policy areas. The Commission Work Programme (CWP) 2013 sets out how the Commission will work to this end for the next year and beyond.

The Commission Work Programme (CPW) summarises the objectives for the Union in seven key areas and sets out what is missing today. It then explains how the Commission will tackle these objectives: by taking forward key initiatives already on the table, by making new proposals, and by ensuring that the benefits of reform are carried through to citizens by effective implementation.

President Barroso said: "In my State of the Union address, I proposed a decisive deal for Europe. This involves huge change for Europe. But this Work Programme shows how the Commission is working day by day to take the steps needed. 2013 will be a crucial year for showing our citizens that the EU is leading the way in taking the credible, concrete steps needed to lead us out of the crisis and build the right springboard for future sustainable growth."

Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, responsible for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration, said: "These are crucial years for Europe. The steps we take over the next few years will decide our future path. There is no silver bullet to solve our current problems, but we at the EU level can at least help to show a lead. That is why the 2013 Commission Work Programme concentrates on Europe pulling together to encourage growth and get more people back into work."

The Commission Work Programme 2013 can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

For more information see also:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1131_en.htm

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-12-756_en.htm

Source: European Commission

Council Agrees to Launch Free Trade Negotiations with Japan

On the 29 November, the Council of the European Union approved a mandate for the European Commission to negotiate a free trade agreement with Japan. It also authorised the opening of negotiations with Japan on a framework agreement.

These agreements will be negotiated in parallel and will create a strengthened overall framework for the EU's relations with Japan.

Both mandates are composed of a decision of the Council and a decision of the representatives of the member states authorising the opening of negotiations, as well as directives for the negotiation of the agreements.

Japan is the EU's seventh-largest trading partner while the EU is Japan's third-largest trading partner, with 3.6 % and 11 % respectively of each other's trade in goods in 2011.

The Council's decision to launch the negotiations follows a "scoping" exercise that was conducted jointly by the Commission, the European External Action Service and the Japanese authorities between May 2011 and May 2012, in order to define the potential scope and level of ambition of an agreement.

The negotiating directives foresee a free trade agreement that would provide for the progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade in goods, services and investment, as well as rules on trade-related issues and the elimination of non-tariff barriers.

The negotiating directives for a framework agreement cover political, global and sectoral cooperation in a comprehensive manner.

Source: Council of the European Union



http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/133907.pdf

ICT Dialogue in Tokyo

The 19th EU-Japan ICT Dialogue took place in Tokyo on 14 November and was followed by an internet security workshop on the following day. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Director General Zoran Stancic of the European Commission (DG CONNECT) and Director General Shun Sakurai of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Japan.



Director General Shun Sakurai and Deputy Director General Zoran Stancic

Both sides presented an update of their respective policy initiatives on a number of areas, including internet governance, cloud computing, research frameworks, healthy ageing, as well as a safer internet for children. Recent Japanese and EU initiatives in the e-privacy field were also discussed.

The legislative approaches in that area differ in so far as Japan's "Smartphone Privacy Initiative" is targeting specifically smartphones while the EU prefers to be technologically neutral in its e-privacy initiative. Regarding R&D cooperation, the current cooperation on the coordinated call on the Future Internet was reviewed and noted to be progressing in a satisfactory matter with the call having been published recently. Moreover, a number of ideas for future cooperation have already been flagged.

Finally, market access and regulatory issues were also discussed and the EU side stressed their view that an independent regulator is crucial in a sector where the incumbent provider still enjoys a dominant position.

Apart from the official meetings with the Japanese authorities, European Commission officials also took the opportunity of their Tokyo visit for side meetings with both European and Japanese industry representatives in order to discuss the situation of the EU and the Japanese ICT markets.

Source: Delegation of the European Union to Japan

Amended Regulation Governing Imports of Japanese food and feed from 1st November

The new regulation (EU) No 996/2012 is available:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:299:0031:0041:EN:PDF>

EU-funded Executive Training Programme in Japan

European Managers on the Executive Training Programme to build Business Ties with Asia



Executive Training Programme for Japan and Korea Attendees 2012

46 European managers have been selected by the European Commission to follow its Executive Training Programme in Japan and Korea. This year's intake includes participants from 13 EU member states sponsored by companies keen to export to Japan and Korea. During the programme the participants will refine their business plan and gain useful language, business and cultural skills to successfully operate in Japan and Korea.

The Executive Training Programme is funded by the European Union. It has supported European managers and companies in developing their business and resources in Japan and Korea for 33 years, and to date more than 800 companies have sponsored managers to participate in the programme. Given the ambitious EU trade strategy with Korea and Japan, the programme will continue to play an instrumental role in strengthening the presence of EU companies in these markets that offer enormous untapped potential for EU businesses.

The recently revised programme begins with a three-week introductory course at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, where participants learn about the East Asian economy, history, culture and modern society. Following the European module, participants move to Japan or Korea for a 30-week business, management and language training programme run by leading universities.

Participants then get a unique opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge in practice during a 12-week internship in a local company. The EU funds the entire training course and provides a scholarship for each participant of €26,400 a year for Japan and €24,000 for Korea. The European Commission is now seeking candidates for the 2013/2014 cycle of the programme. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2013. The training cycle will run from November 2013 to November 2014. EU executives and their sponsor companies can apply by submitting an online application.



<http://www.euetp.eu>

EU INDUSTRIAL R&D INVESTMENT SCOREBOARD Despite Crisis Top EU Firms Continue to Invest in Innovation

In the face of the continuing economic and financial crisis, major EU-based firms continue to rely on R&D for their competitive edge. They increased R&D investment by 8.9% in 2011, up from 6.1% in 2010. The increase nearly matches US firms (9%), beats the global average (7.6%) and is far ahead of Japanese companies (1.7%). R&D-intensive sectors tended to show above average employment growth. These are key findings of the European Commission's 2012 "EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard" of the top 1500 global R&D investors. The global top 50 includes 15 EU companies, 18 US firms and 12 from Japan. Japanese car manufacturer Toyota tops the ranking, with Volkswagen the top EU company in third place (€7.2 billion invested).

Recently released Eurostat data shows that combined EU public and private research spending increased to 2.03% of GDP in 2011, from 2.01% in 2010. This was mainly due to increased private sector spending.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science said: "Knowledge is the lifeblood of European competitiveness, so the increase in R&D investment by EU companies is a call to arms in our battle for growth and jobs. We now need to match private sector ambition with increased investment in R&D at national and European levels. EU leaders should send a strong signal by approving an ambitious budget for Horizon 2020, our future programme for research and innovation."



http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1324_en.htm

EU Exceeds Research Funding Target for SMEs

The European Commission has undoubtedly paid special attention to the funding for SMEs under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) so far, and intends to continue to do so. In addition to the SME-specific measures under the Capacity programme (through the scheme "Research for the Benefit of SMEs"), the Decision establishing FP7 as a matter of fact provides for a target of at least 15% of the funding of the cooperation programme to go to SMEs.

By the end of September 2012, SMEs made up 18.5% of all participations on the Cooperation programme.

The report also provides in-depth statistics about the composition of project consortia: 74.5% of all the grant agreements involve at least one SME and 11.1% of all the projects have a SME as its coordinator. The average EU contribution going to SMEs participating in thematic research projects so far has been about €275,000 per project.

Full report at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-tech-web/pdf/sme_participaton_in_fp7_oct_2012.pdf

Innovation Performance of 190 European Regions Compared

Innovation is a key driver of economic growth and jobs. The Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2012 provides a comparative assessment of how European regions perform with regard to innovation. The report covers 190 regions across the European Union, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland. The most innovative regions in the EU are typically in the most innovative countries: Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Finland.

Most of the moderate and modest innovation regions barely use Framework Programme funds but they are usually high users of Structural Funds for business innovation. Several innovation leaders, on the other hand, are very successful in attracting grants under the Research & Development Framework Programme: over 90% of leading Framework Programme absorbers are the regional innovation leaders.

Full report at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/regional-innovation/index_en.htm

Source: European Commission

15th Japan-EU Conference

Brussels, Belgium, 26 November 2012

Ambassador Shiojiri gave the keynote address at the 15th Japan-EU Conference with the presence of EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy, government officials and prominent academics.

The topic of this year's conference was "Japan-EU Cooperation in a Changing World". Ambassador Shiojiri focused on the need to elevate Japan-EU relations to a

higher level and the major role concluding an EPA/FTA and political agreement would play in achieving this.

In his address the Ambassador pointed to the need to conclude a comprehensive political agreement between Japan and the EU and the benefits it would bring. He argued "with this instrument, the EU and Japan will be able to jointly play an even more

positive role in international rule making for trade, investment, protection of Intellectual property rights and other related economic activities".

The full address by Ambassador Shiojiri at the 15th Japan-EU conference is available on the website of the Mission of Japan to the EU.

Source: Mission of Japan to the EU



<http://www.eu.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Japan Tsunami: Hope and Recovery



Ambassador Shiojiri joined European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič in an opening of an exhibition of photographs and documentaries titled "Japan tsunami: Hope and Recovery" at the European Commission.

In his remarks, Ambassador Shiojiri expressed gratitude on behalf of the Japanese people to all those from the European Institutions who offered their support in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The Ambassador spoke about the lessons that have been learned from the disaster and the process of recovery. His full remarks are available on the website of the Mission of Japan to the EU.

The exhibition took place in the Berlaymont building of the European Commission from 27 November to 6 December.

Source: Mission of Japan to the EU



<http://www.eu.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Reports on the Japanese Economy

The latest report on the current status of the Japanese economy is available at: <http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/economy/data/index.html>

Results of the Regional Economic and Industrial Research (July-September 2012) are available at:

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2012/1025_02.html

Source: Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

The Third EU-Japan English Haiku Contest

Announcement of the winning haiku

Japan and the EU hosted the third EU Japan English haiku contest on the theme of "Dawn".

The total number of entries was 523, 104 entries from Japan and 419 entries from the EU member states as well as Croatia.

After careful examination, Ms. Yasuko Kurono and Mr. Zeshan Hayat were awarded First Prize.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has invited Mr. Zeshan Hayat to Matsuyama City, which is considered to be the birthplace of modern Haiku in Japan.

His winning Haiku was:

"Light breaks free, A new day is born, The mantis comes out to pray."



Ms Yasuko Kuroda visited President Herman Van Rompuy in Brussels in October and had a conversation on haikus.

Her winning Haiku was:

"Dawn of summer solstice, Coming out of, A vivid dream".

Source: Mission of Japan to the EU



http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2012/9/0904_02.html

AICHI PREFECTURE

Pillar of Japan's industry and number one area for investment support



Aichi Prefecture, located in the centre of Japan, offers a high concentration of world-leading manufacturing industries. It is constantly endeavouring to improve its subsidy policies to further promote investments and R&D. In April 2012, Aichi set up a fund of 5 billion yen, corresponding to 10% of the annual amount of corporate tax, to support the establishment of companies, as well as promote R&D and proving tests, through three subsidy programmes:

1. with the aim of promoting the establishment of manufacturing facilities in cutting-edge fields, Aichi Prefecture increased subsidisation to 10 billion yen, making it one of the largest subsidies in Japan: and the limit on subsidies for large-scale projects (over 100 billion yen) which can have a significant impact on the local economy.
2. the second programme aims to support the reinvestments within the prefecture by the SMEs which have contributed to sustain the local economy for many years, by preventing the outbound drain of companies and supporting brilliant investment projects in both the expanding fields, and fields occupying the core of the supply chain.
3. the third programme consists of supporting the R&D and proving tests performed by companies in collaboration with universities and other research institutions in promising fields such as: next-generation vehicles, aerospace, environment and new energy industries.

This new incentive, set up as a countermeasure to deindustrialisation, has enabled Pokka Corporation, a major beverage manufacturer whose headquarters are in Aichi, to invest 3.2 billion yen to perform earthquake reinforcement works and set up a cutting-edge production line in order to increase its production capacity by 70%. Another recipient was Belgian group Umicore, which is specialised in global materials technology. Umicore announced the construction of a R&D facility in Tokoname, Aichi, for automotive catalysts.

These two examples show the relevance of Aichi's strategy: over the first semester of fiscal 2012, 24 projects have been subsidised for an amount of 3.1 billion yen, while total investments by companies amounted to 50.9 billion yen, allowing the creation of over 6000 jobs.

As for the support programme for the R&D and proving tests in high value-added sectors, so far 59 projects have been selected and have benefited from 760 million yen through subsidies.

In order to further develop its R&D equipment environment, Aichi Prefecture set up its "Knowledge Hub" on the former site of the 2005 World Exposition. Aichi Center for Industry and Science Technology, the leading core facility, opened in February 2012, while the Central Japan Synchrotron Radiation Facility, designed to develop R&D projects that use nanotechnology, will open in the coming months.

In addition, the establishment of the National Composite Center, which is currently under project development and will be centred around Nagoya University, illustrates the high concentration of R&D in a wide array of cutting-edge sectors.

For more information on Aichi's support for investments, please feel free to contact the JETRO / Aichi Prefecture Office in Paris.



<http://www.pref.aichi.jp/ricchitsusho/e/fund.html>

FORUM

International Hydrogen Energy Development

Fukuoka, Japan, 30-31 January 2013

Fukuoka Prefecture, well known as a centre of advanced research and development and demonstration projects in the field of hydrogen energy and fuel cells, is promoting the "Hy-Life Project" which works on various activities for the realisation of an eco-friendly society.

With unique efforts, such as "Fukuoka Hydrogen Town", where more than 150 households are equipped with fuel cell systems, or the world's only institution for hydrogen-related human resource development, Fukuoka Prefecture has attracted a lot of attention.

As part of this effort, Fukuoka Prefecture is gathering the opinion leaders of the world in the field of hydrogen energy and fuel cells and holding a forum in order to spread the latest trends and research and development results every year.

Fukuoka Prefecture plans to invite many speakers from Europe (United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Norway etc.) to this forum, the seventh since its beginning, a hot debate about the realisation of a hydrogen energy society is expected.



<http://www.congre.co.jp/hydrogen2013/index.html>

Japanese Machinery Trading Company RIX Expands to Germany

In October 2012, Fukuoka based company RIX opened a subsidiary company, in Stuttgart, Germany (RIX Europe GmbH) in order to increase sales of rotary joints for machine tool manufacturers and windmill manufacturers.

While there are worldwide concerns about the future of the economy, the European market, including Germany, continues to be an attractive market for Japanese companies and this is one of the main reasons that led to the expansion. The company's rotary joints, which increase the cutting efficiency of machining centers and lathes, have contributed significantly to the innovation of machine tools.

Through this expansion, the competitiveness of Japan and Europe that lead the world in the field of machine tools is expected to increase.



<http://www.rix.co.jp/english/>

European Companies Succeeding in Japan

Luxembourg Business Strengthening in Japan

IEE s.a., a privately-held innovative developer of specialised sensing systems founded in 1989 and headquartered in Luxembourg officially opened its Japanese business IEE Sensing Japan K.K. in October 2012.

The official opening event was hosted by IEE's CEO and President, Hubert Jacobs van Merlen and with the Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker as the Guest of Honour.

Prime Minister Juncker described the official opening as "a celebration of IEE's growth strategy to successfully expand its global reach towards Asia, offering innovative sensing systems that meet the needs of customers well beyond the borders of Luxembourg." He continued by saying: "I am very proud to witness another fine example of Luxembourg's ability to strengthen ties with an economically powerful nation such as Japan."

Established with the aim of strengthening IEE's presence in Japan, IEE Sensing Japan K.K. replaces the company's former representative office that had been operating in the country since 2006.

"Over the years, IEE has developed successful business relationships with a number of Japanese vehicle manufacturers, including Subaru, Suzuki, Mitsubishi and Nissan" says Mr Jacobs van Merlen. "Establishing IEE Sensing Japan K.K. will allow us to strengthen our commitment to local customers while, at the same time, streamline our processes.

It will also put us in a better position to capitalise on the growth opportunities in Asia, in particular in Japan."



The IEE team with the Prime Minister. From left to right: Masaki Takahashi, Ryuji Yamazaki, Hubert Jacobs van Merlen, Jean-Claude Juncker, Hans-Joachim Sommer, Yasuo Sasakura and Hisamori Yamaguchi.

 <http://www.iee.lu>

Latvian Design Products make their way to Japan



Although Latvia might be still little known country to ordinary Japanese, the Latvian design products are getting more popular among Japanese customers.

After successive participation in Interior Lifestyle trade shows in 2011 and 2012, and EU Gateway mission organised exhibitions in Tokyo with the support of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, the Latvian design products – linen home textiles and accessories, wooden and ceramic kitchenware, organic soy wax candles, glassware are more often seen in design shops and department stores.

Japanese customers highly appreciate the Latvian products' handiwork, natural materials, calm colours and minimalistic design that match with their taste.

This year the Latvian products stand was presented at Mitsukoshi department store in the framework of Isetan Mitsukoshi Design Tide Tokyo 2012 project.

The department store is located on the Ginza, a prestigious shopping area attended by 40,000-80,000 people daily. The spot sales were introducing the Latvian Christmas, since the capital Riga claims to be the first city to introduce a decorated Christmas tree 500 years ago.

This project was implemented by the Latvian product specialised shop Riga Collection, which opened its doors in July 2010 in Nakameguro, Tokyo, and since then actively promotes the Latvian products in the department stores.

At the moment it participates in spot sales at Umeda Hankyu department store in Osaka, thus introducing the Latvian design and crafts also to the Kansai area.

 <http://www.riga-latvia-gbs.com>

Spanish-Japanese Cooperation Awarded

The Japanese company Hojo Seian, in cooperation with the Spanish company Posada Marron Glacé, has been awarded with the Silver Diploma Monde Selection 2012, in a ceremony celebrated in Athens in June 2012.

The product is marron paste with Hojo Seian Formula, but with Spanish raw material chestnuts. This cooperation has started one year ago, and it is forecasted to expand this trademark "Posada" of Marron Chestnut paste in the Japanese market, among other chestnut paste from Italy or France competing with the Chinese chestnuts in Japan.

 <http://www.marronglace.net>

IHI Corporation and Paul Wurth join forces

Last August IHI Corporation announced that its board of directors approved the agreement reached with Paul Wurth S.A., Luxembourg, to set up a joint venture corporation in Japan in the field of iron and coke making technologies.

 http://www.ihico.jp/var/ezwebin_site/storage/original/application/587921b2ef4f16d64dfb5cb9348e9fc.pdf
<http://www.paulwurth.com>



FR-JP CLUSTER COOPERATION

Food and Biotech Clusters from France and Japan meet to boost R&D partnerships

Vitagora has welcomed a delegation from the Kyushu Bio Cluster Conference (KBCC). Over 2 days, a group of 10 companies, research centers and universities visited Dijon to meet existing partners and create new contacts. One-to-one meetings were scheduled for one morning, as well as visits of research centers in Burgundy and Franche-Comté. After this, the delegation went to Rennes and visited other F²C Innovation partners.

This event has been organised within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between KBCC and F²C Innovation in 2010.

KBCC aims to boost R&D, production and sales expansion of "functional or health-care food" in the southern region of Kyushu in Japan. It brings together over 200 members from industry and academia.

Vitagora® is the leading European cluster on Taste-Nutrition-Health. Its members include more than 150 companies and the elite of international research. Vitagora® is a member of F²C Innovation..



<http://www.vitagora.com>
<http://www.f2c-innovation.com>
<http://www.kyushu-bio.jp>

International Medical Industrial Forum 2013

Nagano, Japan, 29 January 2013

Representative of medical clusters in Europe (Cluster MedizinTechnik.NRW – DE, I-Care le Cluster des Technologies de la Santé Rhône-Alpes - FR), USA and Japan will be presenting the current status and issues of the healthcare industry in each country.

Nagano Prefecture is Japan's foremost manufacturing centre for high-tech and precision machinery industries and one of the world leading producers of precision instruments including watches and personal computer-related devices.

Currently, the manufacturing industry in Nagano Prefecture is promoting new strategies for developing sectors such as green energy, environment, and healthcare.

In particular, the sector of healthcare related industries is expected to record significant developments in human resources and advanced medical treatments.

In that context, Nagano Techno Foundation is organising the International Medical Industrial Forum 2013 with the aim to implement a global network for cooperation in the healthcare sector and is looking forward to welcoming EU representatives of this sector at the Forum.

Agenda (as of 10/12/2012) and application form: http://documents.eu-japan.eu/nagano_application_form



<http://www.tech.or.jp/english>

Bavarian Business Delegation to Saitama



This business delegation is already the fourth round of business-matchmaking between Bavarian and Japanese companies. The organiser and initiator is the Bavarian Networking - Organisation Cluster Mechatronik & Automation e.V. with headquarters in Augsburg, Germany, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Nuremberg. During this four day trip Bavarian and Japanese companies met for business-matchmaking and visited Japanese high-tech companies. The programme included more than 30 one-to-one meetings and 15 visits of Japanese SME companies.

The overall goal of this RIT-Project is the idea of supporting Bavarian-Japanese business cooperation. A first cooperation between the companies Eutect GmbH and Nittoku Engineering has already been successfully started at the beginning of 2012.

Also several Non-Disclosure-Agreements (NDAs) have been signed between Bavarian and Japanese partners.

The cooperation within the RIT-Project started one year ago. Japanese companies' representatives also visited Bavarian companies and trade fairs organised by the Cluster of Mechatronik & Automation in Bavaria.



<http://www.cluster-ma.de>



Japanese Delegation Visited Techtera

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<http://www.techtera.org>

Inauguration of CETI - European Centre for Innovative Textiles: a 360° Success

The official launch of the European Centre for Innovative Textiles, (CETI) was held on 10 October 2012 in Tourcoing and recorded a huge success. 1400 policy-makers, researchers, engineers and industrialists from all four corners of the economic, scientific, political and arts worlds came to the Lille metropolis to discover this new multi-sector technology platform dedicated to research and innovation in textiles materials.

A range of world-class professional events brought together those who share the same ambition to make textiles the key material of the 21st century for the health care, transport, construction/public works and sports markets.

Among the participants, representatives from Tokyo Institute of Technology, the Japan Chemical Fibers Association, Shinsu University and Mitsubishi Rayon, Kuraray, Unitika, Toray, Toyobo and Teijen were spotted.

Contacts were made to develop new cooperation projects, bookings were taken for tests on the new equipment and tours of the facilities, investors showed their interest in the area as a possible new location and the first framework partnership agreement was signed on that day with ENSAIT (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Industries du Textile).

CETI will begin its operations in January 2013.



Photographer: David Coppietres



<http://www.ceti.com>



Japan Welcome Office

A new incubator for Japanese companies in Belgium.

On the 18 December 2012, a new incubator for business and technological cooperation between Belgium and Japan will open in the university city of Louvain-la-Neuve, 25 km south of Brussels.

The Welcome Offices are one-stop service centers set up by the Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AWEX) for the exclusive use of country-specific investors. They allow companies to test the European market from an office in Wallonia, the French-speaking region of Belgium.

The Japan Welcome Office is a joint project between AWEX and the Science Parks of Wallonia network (SPoW) that will be offering to Japanese companies the following services free of charge:

- Ready-to-use offices in the Louvain-la-Neuve Business and Innovation Centre (Centre d'Entreprise et d'Innovation);
 - Assistance during the initial development of their business in Belgium and Europe by facilitating information exchange with public and private institutions as well as with adequate experts;
 - Personalised services provided in Japanese.
- The Japan Welcome Office will also work to foster scientific collaboration between Walloon and Japanese R&D centers.

Contact details:

japanwelcomeoffice@investinwallonia.be



<http://www.belgium-wallonia.jp/>

The CCIRJ Started Natura 2000 Programmes



The Romanian Japan Chamber of Commerce (CCIRJ) has participated to the programme managed by the Romania Ministry of Environment called "Natura 2000 - protected natural areas administrators selection", obtaining the administration of the North of Western Gorj, an area of over 85,000 hectares with the aim of conserving and protecting natural and cultural local heritage.

Continuing the actions in preserving nature, CCIRJ developed, in partnership with the Romanian Environmental Protection Agency, the project "Life + NAT/RO/ 825" aiming to protect the biodiversity and natural habitats of the administered area.

The CCIRJ also started an internship project called "Volunteers in action together with Natura2000" which spans the period of 2012-2014. In 2012 the CCIRJ welcomed 60 Romanian and Moldavian students who were involved in biodiversity activities.

Starting in 2013, the CCIRJ is planning to conclude partnerships with Japanese Universities, in order to add this internship programme to their extracurricular activities.



<http://www.ccirj.ro>

Japan: a Market of Opportunities for Spanish firms

Taking into account that the Spanish Government will organise the "Year of Spain in Japan" from October 2013, Casa Asia and the Foro de Marcas Renombradas Españolas organised a business meeting on 15 November to discuss the opportunities and economic perspectives of Japan for Spanish companies.

The meeting, which brought around 50 people together: business people and representatives of public institutions, served to get to know about the reality of these companies in their relation with Japan, and to collect proposals to implement this commemoration.



The "Year of Spain in Japan" is planned to reinforce the relationship between Spain and Japan on the basis of three main issues: business dialogue, promotion of Spanish investment in Asia and cultural exchanges.



<http://casaasia.org/>

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY ON STAGE IN JAPAN

On 4-7 December, Fraunhofer COMEDD - Research Institution for Organics, Materials and Electronic Devices attended the IDW 2012 – the International Display Workshop 2012 – in Kyoto.

The IDW is specialised in fields playing important roles in information display activities. Three topics: oxide TFT, augmented reality and lighting technologies were especially highlighted this year.

Fraunhofer COMEDD has shown for the first time in Asia their interactive data eye-glasses based on OLED microdisplays for augmented reality applications. These tiny microdisplays are both display and camera at the same time. Thus it is possible to display information, observe one's surroundings and to have one's hands free for further activities since the information is controlled by eye-tracking. Examples of application: for craftsmen to get their construction plans displayed without interrupting their work or for paramedics that can take care of their patients and monitor the most important body functions at the same time. The demonstration of the data eye-glasses attracted a large audience.

<http://www.comedd.fraunhofer.de>

Japan-Slovenia Technology Conference



On 24 October 2012 a Japan-Slovenia Technology Conference was held at the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Hideo Hato, President of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization of Japan (NEDO) and Ms. Mateja Mešl, Director General of the Public Agency for Technology of Slovenia (TIA) signed the "Memorandum of Understanding" on Cooperative Information Exchange.

Mr. Toshimitsu Isgure, Ambassador of Japan to Slovenia and Mr. Radovan Žerjav, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Economic Development and Industry of Slovenia welcomed the agreement and hoped for the realisation of strategic and long-term cooperation.

In the conference focusing on "smart grid" and "smart house", representatives of Japanese companies (Hitachi, Ltd., Yaskawa Electric Corporation and Obayashi Corporation) and Slovenian companies (Kolektor Group, Petrol, Inea, Trimo and Robotina Group) presented their cutting-edge technologies and expressed their willingness for cooperation.

<http://www.si.emb-japan.go.jp>

Urban Water within a Changing Globe



A scientific exchange programme between the University of Tokyo and RWTH Aachen University is taking place at the moment.

Two PhD-students from the Japanese Research Center for Water Environment Technology visited Aachen University's Institute of Environmental Engineering in October and November.

Together with their German colleagues they started to investigate the influence of climate change on Japan and Germany.

The aim of this exchange programme is the development of a solution to adapt water systems in Germany and Japan to climate change.

This exchange forms part of the DAAD financed programme "Partnerships with Japan and Korea", which supports universities. By working together not only technical but also cultural understandings were transferred, leading to new ideas and impulses to look at technology from another perspective.

As a next step, a German researcher will visit Japan in January to continue research and further intensify the cooperation between RWTH Aachen and the University of Tokyo.

<http://www.isa.rwth-aachen.de>
<http://www.env.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/e/index.html>
<http://daad.de>

Foreign Chambers Business Confidence Survey

The Foreign Chambers in Japan (FCIJ) has been conducting Business Confidence surveys online twice a year since 2002 among foreign-affiliated companies in Japan.

This survey shows that all indexes, from views on the Japanese economy to the performance of the companies, as well as their forecasts for the future, declined about 15-25% from the Spring 2012 survey conducted in April. But apart from the views on the Japanese economy in the short term, all indices were still positive. The Japanese economy for the next 6 months is expected remain flat and looking 12 months ahead, the companies see a slight turn for the better.

The concerns regarding the economy and lower reported and forecasted growth in the companies performance, could now, based on the comments the respondents made, be to a fairly large extent attributed to external factors, such as the European debt crises, the troubled Japan-China relations and uncertainties regarding the US economy.

Source: Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Japan

<http://www.fcc.or.jp/fcij/bcs.html>

COLLECTIONS FRANCAISES French Accessories Fair

Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, 28 Jan - 1 Feb 2013

The French Trade Commission UBIFRANCE is proud to announce the 39th edition of "Collections Francaises" that will be held on January 2013 at the Hilton hotels in Tokyo & Osaka. The French brands will introduce their latest collections to the Japanese customers.

In fact, the fancy accessories market in Japan is the second largest in the world. Also, France is one of the most important suppliers to the Japanese market thanks to the originality and creativity of its designs.

The principal buyers of department stores, selected shops, distributors, importers visit this presentation. The participation is open to all type of fashion goods such as fancy accessories, bags, shoes...

This event is jointly hosted with the Fédération Française du Prêt à Porter Féminin (FFPAPF) which organises "Mode in France". 70 French fashion brands will join in.

Next Collection Francaises:
Tokyo - 28 to 30 JAN at Hotel Hilton
Osaka - 31 JAN to 1 FEB Hotel Hilton

 <http://www.ubifrance.com/jp/>
<http://www.col-fr.com/>

ITALIAN PAVILION @ NANOTECH 2013

Tokyo, Japan, 30 Jan - 1 Feb 2013

The Italian Trade Commission (ICE) - Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy is organising Italy's participation in the 12th edition of Nanotech, the world largest nanotechnology fair in Tokyo

<http://www.nanotechexpo.jp/en/>

The latest nanotechnologies and products "Made in Italy" will be presented by public research institutions and private enterprises, with the purpose of enhancing industrial collaboration, joint research and technical tie-up between Italian & Japanese nanotechnology companies.

 <http://www.ice-tokyo.or.jp/index.php>

Moda Italia and Shoes from Italy 2013-14 Fall-Winter Collections

Tokyo, Japan, 29 - 31 January 2013

The Italian Trade Commission (ICE) - Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy will organize the 42nd edition of Moda Italia & the 52nd edition of Shoes from Italy, the largest Italian fashion & shoes trade exhibitions in Japan, from 29 to 31 January 2013.

The number of exhibitors will be more than 200 and the number of expected visitors is over 2,000.



The Italian exhibitors from all over Italy will present their collections for Fall/Winter 2013/14 at the Westin Hotel Tokyo.

A wide range of products will be displayed, including apparel for men, women, knitwear, leather and bags, fashion accessories and footwear, always attracting the attention of visitors.

 <http://www.ice-tokyo.or.jp/index.php>

Business Matching Event: Image Technologies and Digital Creativity

Tokyo, Japan, 11-14 February 2013

This business event, organised by UBIFRANCE the French Trade Commission, will focus around 2 main topics:

- The first topic is about digital contents for the mass market, such as video games and animated series.
- The second topic revolves around animation, creation and modelling technologies and tools for professionals.

UBIFRANCE will be offering business-matching services for participating French companies, selecting and contacting potential business partners, distributors or customers among Japanese firms.

The service also includes the help of a French/English-to-Japanese interpreter for each participating company, as well as a press release introducing the French companies to Japanese professionals through specialised newspapers, magazines and websites.

This event will take place alongside "Digital Choc", a series of events organised by the French Institute of the French Embassy, celebrating creativity in the digital era through concerts, art installations and conferences, all around Japan.

 <http://www.ubifrance.com/jp/>

PLAYTIME Tokyo Welcome to French Pavilion by UBIFRANCE

Tokyo, Japan, 19-21 February 2013

UBIFRANCE, the French Agency for International Business Development, is organising a French Pavilion for PLAYTIME Tokyo that will take place from 19 to 21 February, 2013 at Belle Salle Shibuya Garden, Tokyo.

PLAYTIME is the international trade show dedicated to the children's world and maternity wear. French brands are highly appreciated with their originality and refinement, and their fancy designs.

The children's market in Japan is one of the most developed in the world, attracting a wide range of international exhibitors and buyers. This fair, organised twice a year, is well-known and established, with the number of visitors increasing each year. The last session in August 2012 recorded an increase of 32% compared to 2011.

170 selected brands will participate to the next PLAYTIME Tokyo .

 <http://www.ubifrance.com/jp/>
<http://www.playtimetokyo.com>



ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK SEMINAR FOR JAPANESE SMES

Tokyo, Japan, 4 December 2012



The EU-Japan Centre held an informative seminar on the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) activities to support

Japanese SMEs in their international development toward the European Union. With the aim to promote the Enterprise Europe Network among Japanese SMEs and public organisations promoting SME internationalisation, the seminar provided answers to the following points:

- How to find a business cooperation partner in the EU
- How to find a technology partner in the EU
- How to participate in the EEN B2B matching event organised at EU trade-show venues

The seminar was attended by both SMEs and local governments representatives.



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

Czech Delegation at Nanotech 2013

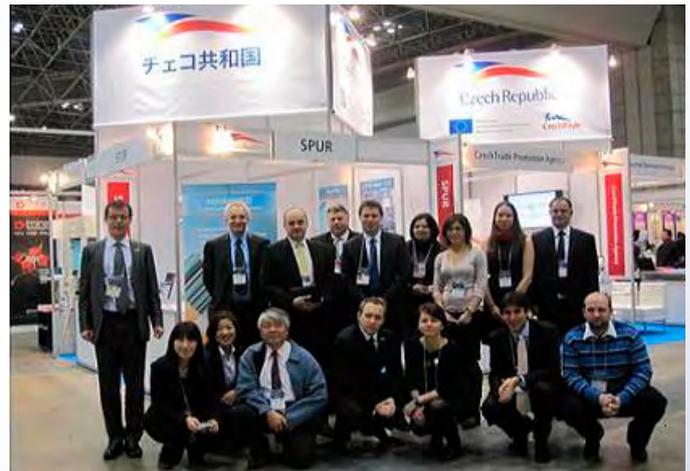
Tokyo, Japan, 30 January - 01 February 2013

Following the successful mission held last February 2012, the Enterprise Europe Network Czech partner Technology Centre ASCR, with the support of the Czech Embassy in Japan and the governmental organisation CzechInvest, will reiterate the mission and lead a group of 14 Czech companies, research centres and universities to Nanotech 2013.

The Czech Republic belongs to a set of countries with a huge number of universities and innovative companies dealing with nanotechnologies used in various applications, therefore interest to exhibit at the biggest nanotechnology fair in Japan is so big, that the Czech Republic will be present with a country pavilion.

Czech exhibitors will bring innovative projects and research cooperation opportunities in the fields of textiles, environmental, machinery, food, medical and biotechnology. Visitors could see examples of electrospinning technology at the stand N° A6-17.

Several partnership agreements made in the last 2 years between Japanese and Czech researchers are the proof of strong ties between the 2 countries in the field of research and a good base for further cooperation developments.



Czech Delegation in 2012

Special presentations will be held during the fair and the Czech delegation is looking forward to welcoming Japanese visitors at their pavilion.

<http://www.een.cz>

Tuscany Fashion Companies at Moda Italia

Tokyo, Japan, 29-31 January 2013

The Italian Enterprise Europe Network partner the Economic Agency of Tuscany Region will coordinate the participation of 35 Tuscany fashion companies to Moda Italia – Tokyo 2013.

All the companies are examples of the excellence in the field of fashion 'Made in Italy' – women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes and leather goods.



The Tuscany region is pleased to welcome Japanese visitors at the fair.

For more details or arrange meetings schedule interested visitors can contact: s.simoni@toscanapromozione.it

List of exhibiting companies at:

<http://www.een-japan.eu/events/italian-fashion-mission-japan>



EU-Japan Business Opportunities



REQUEST FOR A DESIGNER IN SWEDEN-FINLAND-DENMARK:
Sector: Design

A Japanese personal stationery company is seeking designers for one of their products
Profile ID: 20121127042



REQUEST FOR TRADE INTERMEDIARY IN JAPAN:
Sector: Foods

An Italian company active in the sector of organic foods production is looking for distributors
Profile ID: 20121016037



REQUEST FOR TRADE INTERMEDIARY IN JAPAN:
Sector: Foods

An Italian Consortium producing extra virgin olive oil is looking for trade intermediary services
Profile ID: 20121114021



REQUEST FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS IN JAPAN:
Sector: Nano and Microtechnology

An Italian SME developing a chip microsensor device seeks partners for technical cooperation
Profile ID: 12 IT 55X7 3PBY



REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTORS IN JAPAN:
Sector: ICT

A Polish company dealing with software, applications and IT systems development, is looking for distributors and representatives
Profile ID: 20121009011



REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTORS IN JAPAN:
Sector: Manufacture of plastic parts

A Swedish manufacturer of plastic buckets is looking for trade agents and distributors
Profile ID: 20120921013



REQUEST FOR TRADE AGENTS IN JAPAN:
Sector: Manufacture of plastic parts

A Catalan company is looking for trade intermediaries for innovative air fresheners for cars
Profile ID: 20110524018



REQUEST FOR TRADE AGENTS IN JAPAN:
Sector: Textile and clothing

An Italian company specialised in manufacturing Italian style clothes, is looking for agents/distributors/representatives
Profile ID: 20120920016



REQUEST FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS IN JAPAN:
Sector: Intelligent daylight system

A Belgian company is looking for partners to market an energy efficient, intelligent daylight system
Profile ID: 20110322042



<http://een-japan.eu/opportunities>

Enterprise Europe Network Events

MATCHMAKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU AND JAPANESE SMES

Ecobuild Matchmaking Event

Sectors: Construction technology, Environment
London, UK, 6 March 2013

Enterprise Europe South-East UK is organising a B2B matchmaking event during Ecobuild, the biggest event in the world for sustainable construction.
<http://www.b2match.eu/ecobuild2013>

IndustryMatchMaking – IMM 2013

Sectors: Automation/Robotics, ICT, Electronics, Microelectronics
Sofia, Bulgaria, 7 March 2013

The forum is an excellent opportunity for companies and organisations to establish valuable business contacts with local and foreign companies for business cooperation, technology transfer or participation in projects funded by European programs.
<http://www.imm2013.build-your.net>

Business meetings at Biogaz Europe and Fair Bois Energie 2013

Sectors: Energy, Environment, Waste management
Nantes, France, 21-22 March 2013

Professionals of forestry and agriculture will meet to explore and further develop their common interests in energy provision in a European context that calls for ever more efficient and integrated solutions.
<http://www.b2match.eu/biogaz-bois-energie/>

b2fair HANNOVER MESSE 2013

Sectors: Industrial Automation, Energy, ICT, Environmental, Surface Technology, Hybrid and Electric Powertrain Technologies
Hannover, Germany, 10-11 April 2013

The b2fair matchmaking event will take place during HANNOVER MESSE, the world's leading industrial and technological trade show. Participating companies will have the possibility to find new business partners on an international level during tailored prescheduled business meetings.
<http://www.b2faironline.com/hannovermesse2013/>

<http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/public/calendar/home.cfm?type=future>



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science's Summer Program in Japan

The JSPS Summer Program is implemented as a component of the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers. It provides opportunities for young pre- and post-doctoral researchers from Europe to receive an orientation on Japanese culture and research systems and to pursue research under the guidance of host researchers at Japanese universities and research institutes over a period of two months during the summer.

Application deadline: 15 January 2013

More information on

<http://www.jspss.go.jp/english/e-summer/index.html>

Renewable Energy 2012 Exhibition

Chiba, Japan, 5-7 December 2012

The Italian Trade Commission (ICE) - Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy organised the Italy's participation in the 7th Renewable Energy 2012 Exhibition (<http://www.renewableenergy.jp/english>) held at Makuhari Messe.

The Italian Trade Commission introduced to the visitors the advantages of the Italy's renewable energy sector and the major players in Italy. On the 6th December, a seminar inviting an expert from Italy in order to illustrate the sector trend and the opportunities for collaboration between Italian and Japanese companies has been organised.

More information on

<http://www.ice-tokyo.or.jp/index.php>

UKTI North West Trade Mission to Japan

Tokyo, Japan, 19-30 January 2013

With GDP twice the size of the UK, and GDP per person 10 times that of China, Japan remains the high-tech powerhouse economy of Asia – with the 2nd highest spend worldwide on R&D, and an increasingly globalised outlook.

UKTI NW is organising a trade mission in January 2013 to continue to develop business cooperation across a wide range of manufacturing, consumer goods, high tech and services sectors.

Extended deadline for submission form. Contact Miho Hatakeyama: events@uktinorthwest.co.uk

More information on

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/pt_pt/export/event/373002.html?null

New Job Offers

More information on

<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/job-offers.html>

First International Conference on Lean Six Sigma for Higher Education

Glasgow, UK, 24-25 June 2013

Enhancing Process Efficiency and Effectiveness in Higher Education Sector Organisations using Lean Six Sigma.

The conference will explore the transformation of the Higher Education (HE) sector through the use of Lean Six Sigma. It aims to highlight that both Lean and Six Sigma have a role to play in developing HEI's processes by improving efficiency and creating a student-centric approach for greater student retention.

More information on

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/siom/conferences>

Round Table

Do we have to Worry About a Possible "Japanese scenario" for Europe?

Paris, France, 10 December 2012

Despite the action of the European Central Bank and of the European Union together with plans of fiscal consolidation at the national level, it is still difficult in 2012 to forecast when and how the crisis that is hitting Europe will come to an end.

Organised by the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales on the 10 December, this round table had 3 leading Japanese and French economists meeting to discuss worries that Europe may follow a scenario similar to Japan's two decades of economic stagnation. They analysed these two experiences, their similarities and differences and emphasise the policies and reforms that should be introduced to avoid a "Japanese scenario for Europe" in the coming years.

More information on

<http://ffj.ehess.fr>



DATE/LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACTS
21-22 December 2012 Tokyo, Japan	FORUM France - Japan: Joint Accademic Forum	JSPS, IRCAD, University of Strasbourg http://www.ircad.fr/jsps/
29 January 2013 Paris, France	SEMINAR Information Day on Japan, South Korea and Taiwan	UBIFRANCE http://www.ubifrance.fr/japon/001PRG-17923+cap-vers-l-asie-du-nord-saisissez-les-opportunités-offertes-par-le-japon-la-.html
13 May - 07 June 2013 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME Training Mission in Japan: Human Resources Training Programme - Japan Industry Insight Application deadline: 12 February 2013	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/human-resources-training-programme.html
30 May 2013 Gent, Belgium	CONFERENCE Knowledge for Growth	FlandersBio http://www.knowledgeforgrowth.be
29 May 2013 Dublin, Ireland	WORKSHOP Driving Competitiveness - World Class Manufacturing workshop	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/seminars.html
17-20 June 2013 Tallinn, Estonia	CONGRESS 57th European Organisation for Quality Congress Quality Renaissance - Co-creating a Viable Future	Estonian Association for Quality http://www.quality2013.eu/tours
1 - 5 July 2013 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME Training Mission in Japan: WCM I - World Class Manufacturing Application deadline: 21 March 2013	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html
14 - 18 October 2013 Tokyo, Japan	EUROPEAN COMMISSION-FUNDED PROGRAMME Training Mission in Japan: WCM II - World Class Manufacturing Application deadline: 10 June 2013	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
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