

EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation¹

Seminar on Cooperation between European and Japanese Regions

Delegation of the European Union to Japan²

Tokyo, 20 November 2018

International region-to-region cooperation is an effective means for bringing dynamism to regional economy by internationalizing activities of local entities, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Forms of regional cooperation are well diversified, covering wide range of activities such as export-import of commodities, trade in services, investment, business partnerships (B2Bs), collaboration in research, technology development and innovation, and promotion of people mobility. Such cases of region-to-region cooperation in industry, trade, investment and innovation already exist between Europe and Japan, including collaboration between clusters.

The objective of the seminar is to highlight examples of region-to-region cooperation to identify best practice and share experience with European and Japanese regions interested to engage in partnerships and cooperation related to industry, trade, investment and innovation. The seminar intends to identify to main needs and expectation, the main challenges and opportunities as well as the available instruments and programmes to establish win-win partnerships.

The seminar will also touch upon Europe-Japan region-to-region cooperation targeting operations in third countries, such as in South East Asia, Latin America or Africa. This kind of alliance between European and Japanese regions may be built on the experience and strengths of one region to be used for interacting with other regions in the world.

The seminar aims at preparing the ground for the possible setting up of a regional cooperation platform to help interested European and Japanese regions finding suitable partners, using relevant instruments and financial resources, and fully exploiting the opportunities of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Outline:

- Date & Time :** Tuesday, 20th Nov. 2018, 14:30–18:30 (Networking reception included)
- Venue :** Delegation of the European Union to Japan, 4-6-28 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo
- Theme :** Region-to-Region Cooperation between the EU and Japan
- Language :** English-Japanese Simultaneous interpretation
- Participation fee:** Free (online pre-registration required)
- Registration :** <https://www.eu-japan.eu/seminar-registration-form-cooperation-between-european-and-japanese-regions>
- Inquiry:** EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation (Mr. Fukura, Ms. Benoist, Ms. Saito ; Tel +81 3 6408 0281)

¹ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/>

² https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan_en

Programme:

- 14:30 – 14:35 **Ms. Patricia Flor**, EU Ambassador to Japan - *Welcoming remarks*
- 14:35 – 15:35 Presentations (10 min) of cooperation between European and Japanese regions
- **Mr. Olivier Becht** - President of the European Center for Japanese Studies in Alsace – Alsace Japan Agency and Député du Haut-Rhin - *Alsace's Experience of International Cooperation and Beyond*
 - **Mr. Georg K. Löer**, Representative Director & President, North Rhine-Westphalia Japan K.K. *Building relationships between regions in Japan and Germany - challenges, opportunities and rewards*
 - **Mr. Hajime Furuta**, Governor of Gifu Prefecture – *Cooperation of Gifu prefectures with European regions*
 - **Mr. Takuya Tasso**, Governor of Iwate Prefecture – *Cooperation of Iwate prefecture with European regions*
 - **Osaka Prefectural Government**, Representative of Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor
 - **Dr. Ben Kloeck**, Flanders Investment & Trade – *Cooperation between the Flanders Biotech Cluster and Kansai*
- 15:35 – 15:45
- **Mr. Tatsuya Ishida**, Director of Regional Revitalization Promotion *JETRO's Support for Regional Cooperation*
- 15:45 – 15:55
- **Mr Riki Aoki**, Hitachi city – *Cooperation with German State of Baden-Württemberg(tbc)*
- 15:55 – 16:05
- **Dr. Philippe de Taxis du Poët**, General Manager of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, and Minister Counsellor at the EU Delegation to Japan – *Towards a regional cooperation platform*
- 16:05 – 16:20 Coffee break
- 16:20 – 17:20 Panel Discussion and Q&A - Conditions for a successful regional cooperation ~What are vital elements? What a regional cooperation platform should do? ~
- Panelists:
- **Dr. Daniel Kremers**, German Institute for Japanese Studies
 - **Mr. Tatsushi Amano**, Deputy Director General, New Energy and Power Finance Department, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
 - **Dr. Haruyuki Hiratani**, General Manager, Takasago Electric INC
 - **Dr. Virginie Fermaud**, Director of the European Center for Japanese Studies in Alsace and the Alsace Japan Agency
 - European business in Japan (tbc)
- 17:20 – 17:30
- **Ms. Catherine Trautmann**, - Former Member of the European Parliament 1989–1997 and 2004–2014 - Closing remarks
- 17:30 – 18:30 Networking Reception (same venue)