

**In this issue (among other topics):**

- The first ever European SME Week kicks off on 6 May
- “One-stop shop” Event - “First steps in Japan” - Brussels, Belgium
- EC-funded activities - EU-Japan Centre 2009 training courses and seminars
- EU-Japan-related European Commission news
- Conference on Data Protection and Privacy in the EU and in Japan
- Japan Week November 2009 - Austria
- 7th European Business Summit
- Economic cooperation between Latvia and Japan
- Japan-Danube Friendship Year 2009
- Taoiseach-led Trade Mission to Japan
- News in Brief and EU-Japan-related events calendar

**Upcoming events****WITHIN THE “FIRST EUROPEAN SME WEEK” FRAMEWORK****“One-Stop Shop” Event - “First Steps in Japan”**

12 May 2009 - Brussels, Belgium

**What SMEs can receive as business/financial support from Regional, National and European authorities**

The event will be structured as a “one-stop shop” event where visiting SMEs will be able to collect all kind of information related to any kind of support offered by the Belgian Regions and the European Commission for SMEs wishing to work with Japan or to develop their activities there, and in parallel SMEs (who benefited from regional or EU business and/or financial support) will come to speak about their experience / success stories in Japan.

Organised by: The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

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

Partners:



Belgium-Japan Association  
& Chamber of Commerce ASBL vzw



**Flanders Investment & Trade**  
Government of Flanders - Belgium

**The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation**

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.

**FIRST EUROPEAN SME WEEK TO REACH ENTREPRENEURS THROUGHOUT EUROPE****The first ever European SME Week kicks off on 6 May.**

This major campaign covers activities related to small businesses in 34 countries, giving a helping hand to those already up and running and encouraging young people to choose entrepreneurship as a career.

The campaign events, organised by national, regional and local SME organisations, promote entrepreneurship and offer support and networking opportunities for SMEs.

The events include everything from company open days and funding tips to innovation, taxation and internationalisation conferences.

The events will show European entrepreneurs how to benefit from the open market more efficiently and to boost business.

- <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/>

## EU-Japan Centre's forthcoming activities

Course	Programmes dates	Application deadline	Participants' profile	On-line information
World Class Manufacturing	19 - 23 Oct 2009	11 June 2009	European Managers	<a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html</a>
Vulcanus in Europe	Aug 2010 - Mar 2011	30 September 2009	European Companies	<a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/vulcanus.html">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/vulcanus.html</a>
Distribution & Business Practices in Japan	22 - 26 Feb 2010	10 December 2009	European Managers	<a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html</a>
H RTP-Japan Industry Insight	3 - 28 May 2010	18 February 2010	European Managers	<a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html</a>

### Call for Applications

European Commission-funded programme for EU managers working for EU manufacturing companies

The Centre is currently calling for applications for the next training course: **World Class Manufacturing - 1-week training mission in Japan.**

Training dates in Japan: 18 to 22 October 2009  
Application deadline: 10 June 2009

The training mission provides an in-depth analysis of Japanese manufacturing methodology and is aimed exclusively at EU Executives and Managers with knowledge of WCM and an engineering background. It consists of lectures and workshops. European managers will be 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.

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

## EU-Japan Centre's Seminars

**3 April - Tokyo, Japan**

**How should industries respond to REACH and globally influential EU standards?**

REACH is a European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use, entered into force on 1 June 2007, with the aim of improving the protection of human health and environment while enhancing innovative capability and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

The REACH Regulation gives greater responsibility to industry to manage the risks from chemicals and to provide safety information on the substances. In this seminar, Ms Astrid Schomaker, Head of Chemical Unit at the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission, will present the recent developments in the EU concerning REACH and Mr Fumiaki Shoji, Vice-Secretary General for the REACH Taskforce at the Japan Chemical Industry Association, will present the impact of REACH and the global trends in chemical substances management and discuss how Japanese industries should respond.

● <http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm>

**6 April 2009 - Tokyo, Japan**

**Towards EU-Japan Cooperation in Regional Policies: Fostering Investment in Innovative Regions**

Regional policy is a key EU policy which aims at fostering EU cohesion and securing development for all EU regions. For the period 2007 – 2013, the budget for regional policy accounts for 348 billion EUR (over 35% of the total EU budget). A significant emphasis is given to research and innovation, which are becoming increasingly important to ensure sustainable economic growth of regions.

● <http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm>

### WCM Former participants' feedback

“ I have read a lot about WCM in Japan, but I have a new dimension to my understanding of the history, culture and application of these manufacturing philosophies...

**Jamie ALLAN**

**Executive Vice President**

**Outokumpu Stainless Ltd - Supply Chain Management**



I learned so much from the ability to visualize the manufacturing techniques I saw on the visits. To compare the techniques we are trying to integrate into our process back in the UK will benefit my company going forward...

**Ady ELKS - Production Leader - Rolls-Royce Aerospace** ”

**24 April 2009 - Tokyo, Japan**

**Economic & Environmental Challenges for the Automotive Industry in the EU and Japan**

The automotive industry is a key sector in Europe and in Japan: the EU is the largest automotive production region (34%) in the world and the industry accounts for 7.5 % of all EU manufacturing. Considered as a vital sector for growth and competitiveness both in the EU and Japan, the automotive industry figures prominently on the political agendas of both the European Commission and the Japanese Government.

During the seminar, Mr. Philippe Jean, Head of the Automotive Unit in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise & Industry, will present the European automotive policy and strategy for promoting job security in the sector and for providing green and affordable cars to consumers and Mr. Akira Matsunaga, Director of the Automotive Division of the Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, will explain how Japan sees the impact of the economic crisis on its automotive industry as well as METI's strategy for promoting the diffusion of next-generation cars to meet today's energy and environment challenges.

● <http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm>





## EU-Japan Centre's Seminars

### Industrial Policy Seminar

#### Global Economic Activities and EU Merger Regulation: Legal and Economic Analyses

10 March 2009, Tokyo, Japan

The EU Merger Regulation was adopted in 1989 and took effect the following year. During its relatively short 20-year history, there has been a wide range of controversies, among other things with respect to judicial review by the European Court of Justice, the substantive test in the light of which mergers are reviewed, and the rules governing the methods and procedures for determining whether a given transaction is compatible with EU competition law, leading to a revision of the Regulation in 2004. The objective of merger review in the EU is to ensure that competition is maintained in the common market.

The objective of the seminar, co-organised by the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan and the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, was to examine how the EU merger review is conducted, how the "relevant market" is determined and what measures are likely to be taken in the event a transaction raises serious doubts as to its compatibility with EC competition law, with regard to those transactions on a global scale.

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

### Seminar

#### Impact of Financial Crisis on Trade & Investment

25 February 2009, Tokyo, Japan

For this seminar, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation invited speakers from Bruegel, a European think tank devoted to international economics, created in Brussels in 2005, and from the Institute of Economic Research at Kyoto University, to speak about the impact of the financial crisis on trade and investment in the EU and Japan.

Report available on:

● <http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/data/current/newsobj-240-datafile.pdf>

### Enhancing EU-Japan Economic Cooperation (Seminar)

#### The scope for closer cooperation on trade policy & economic issues

17 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium



The EU and Japan are major trading and investment partners who see cooperation on regulatory issues as a way of tackling the similar challenges they face. In 2008, industry leaders from both sides came together to call for even closer cooperation with higher-level and more effective regulatory dialogues. This Seminar brought together senior business leaders and representatives of the Authorities for a significant exchange of views on the future direction for economic cooperation.

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

### Climate Change, Environment and Energy seminar series

#### Towards a Climate Change Agreement in Copenhagen

10 February 2009, Tokyo, Japan



The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation organised a Climate Change, Environment and Energy seminar with speakers from the European Commission and the Japanese Ministries of Economy, Trade & Industry and of Environment.

The event offered the first public presentation in Japan by the European Commission on its new communication issued on 28 January 2009, thus the interest was particularly strong among Japanese media, business as well as EU Member States representatives in Japan.

Report available on:

● <http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/data/current/newsobj-239-datafile.pdf>

### Industrial Policy Seminar

#### Transfer of Small & Medium Enterprises in the EU and Japan

5 February 2009, Tokyo, Japan



The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation organised an Industrial Policy Seminar entitled "Transfer of Small & Medium Enterprises in the EU and Japan", with speakers from the European Commission, Japanese Organisation of SMEs & Regional Innovation (SMRJ), and the French Ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment.

Presentations showed that the situation was very similar in the EU and Japan, with one third of all enterprises in the EU and almost half of SMEs in Japan expected to face the succession issue in the next 10 years, and that a number of common policies are being set up.

Report available on:

● <http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/data/current/newsobj-238-datafile.pdf>

## European Commission news

### EU-JAPAN COOPERATION ON ICT RESEARCH

Within the framework of the COJAK FP7/ICT project which are support actions aiming at further developing strategic cooperation with Japan on ICT Research and are supported by the European Commission – Directorate-General for Information Society & Media

With regard to Call 5 (opening 31/7/09 - closing 3/11/09); and Call 6 (opening 24/11/09 - closing 13/04/10), the EuroJapan-ICT.org team would like to remind the European & Japanese ICT community of the existing EuroJapan-ICT website: <http://www.eurojapan-ict.org/Community.php>



It represents an excellent platform to identify potential cooperation partners in a particular ICT research field with complementary skills companies might be looking for to submit a joint proposal under FP7. All interested parties are welcome to submit their profiles to join this online ICT community featuring targeted ICT profiles of leading European and Japanese organisations.

Furthermore, the following events will be organised in the framework of the FP7/ICT COJAK project:

- 1) FP7/ICT Awareness Workshop: in Japan
- 2) EU-Japan ICT Cooperation Seminars between key stakeholders in the field: one in Japan and one in Europe
- 3) 2nd EU-Japan Cooperation Forum on ICT Research: in June in Europe

● <http://www.eurojapan-ict.org/Events.php>

### EURAXESS Links Japan New information service for European researchers in Japan

Following the launch of the **Network of European Researchers in Japan** by the European Commissioner for Science & Research, Janez Potočnik, in June 2008, a new information service for European researchers in Japan has recently been launched.



The service comprises a monthly newsletter and homepage that includes comprehensive information on:

- Funding Opportunities in Europe and Japan
- Event information
- News on research developments

Sponsored by the European Commission and the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan, and developed through consultation with European Science and Technology Counsellors and Japanese funding bodies, the new service is a unique and essential source of information for European researchers based in Japan.

● [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/japan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/links/japan/index_en.htm)

### EU - JAPAN JOINT STRATEGIC WORKSHOP on ENERGY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-organised by the EC and METI in cooperation with NEDO  
5 -7 March 2009 - Tokyo, Japan

### EU-Japan discussion to strengthen co-operation in energy research is a success

The European Commission and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in cooperation with the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization of Japan are going to deepen their collaboration in energy research

Both sides underlined: "The cooperation between the EU and Japan in the field of energy research is of mutual benefit in assisting both sides to meet the current global energy challenges". They have worked on the idea that the political energy and climate change dialogue should include R&D aspects on a systematic basis.

The recent technical visits and joint energy research workshop organised in Tokyo was a considerable success. This event was particularly timely following the recent initialing of the EU-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

● [http://www.deljpn.ec.europa.eu/modules/media/news/2009/090307.html?ml\\_la=ng=en](http://www.deljpn.ec.europa.eu/modules/media/news/2009/090307.html?ml_la=ng=en)

### EU GATEWAY PROGRAMME - BUSINESS MISSION TO JAPAN Healthcare and Medical Technologies

Application period: 26 January - 4 May 2009  
Mission dates: 14-18 September 2009 in Tokyo (one week)

The EU Gateway Programme is funded and managed by the European Commission to support EU companies in developing business in Japan by providing support at the critical early stages of their market penetration strategy.

A Healthcare and Medical Technologies mission will take place from 14-18 September 2009 in Tokyo.

Apart from pre-arranged individual meetings, this Business Mission will also include two Business Days where companies will be able to introduce their technologies and products to sector-related manufacturers, import and trading houses, users, and governmental organisations, etc.



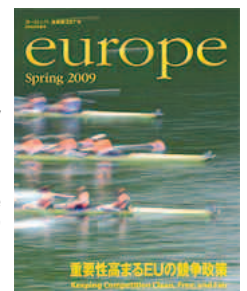
In the run-up to, during and after the visits, companies will have access to professional mentoring and coaching on how to develop their business ideas and come up with a potent business strategy tailored to the Japanese marketplace.

● <http://www.eu-gateway.eu>

### "europe" magazine

It is the **official publication of the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan** and is published by its Press, Public and Cultural Affairs Section.

The principal purpose of "europe" is to give information on all aspects of the European Union, in Japanese, to those interested in the European Union and EU-Japan relations. The magazine is published quarterly and is circulated widely among political, academic, media and business circles. The print run of "europe" extends to 15,000 copies.



"europe" covers a wide range of topics and includes regular articles on major events in Europe along with topics related to EU-Japan relations. The magazine also highlights subjects such as enlargement of the European Union and the EU's role as a world partner, as well as interviews, book introductions and articles on European culture.

● [http://www.deljpn.ec.europa.eu/home/magazine\\_en.php](http://www.deljpn.ec.europa.eu/home/magazine_en.php)



# EU-Japan Centre's news

## VULCANUS PROGRAMME INSIGHTS



The "Vulcanus in Japan" 1-year company internship programme including 4 months of intensive Japanese language course for European science, engineering and architecture students, has entered its 13th year and hosted 280 students. 56 alumni out of 280 have gone back to Japan for a job or study. Some others have also got a position at a Japanese company in the EU or a Japan-related position in a company.



As part of 4 months study of the Japanese language and culture in the "Vulcanus in Japan" 2008 programme, 33 students took part in a 3-day Homestay & Cultural experience programme. Like last year the host place was Shimane Prefecture, where Japanese history and culture have deep roots with a richly historical landscape. Students deepened their understanding of Japan by regional cultural site visits and by discovering Japanese ways of living at home and Japanese ways of thinking. Students also participated at one of the most important annual Shinto rituals, an authentic tradition organised by Izumo Shrine. They made a great contribution to grassroots exchanges through this programme, which will help them to become a future "bridge" for the development of industrial cooperation between Japan and the EU.



The 2008 participants began mainly R&D or production work at 24 host companies in January this year. During their stay in Japan they also acquire general knowledge about Japanese business practices, interpersonal communication and culture.

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

## Upcoming events

### Conference Data Protection and Privacy in the European Union and in Japan

23 April 2009, Brussels, Belgium

Business Conference on Data Protection and Privacy in the European Union and in Japan, with a focus on personal data transfer and recognition of third countries by the EU Commission.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a detailed insight on the legislation covering personal data and information in the EU and in Japan and to review how the applicable legislation can interact, in particular to enable the transfer and processing of data between the two territories for European and Japanese businesses and to comply with applicable rules in this context.

Organised by the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce (BJA) and Linklaters LLP

• <http://www.bja.be>

### Japan Week 2009 - Austria 21-26 November 2009



Japan Week is a series of cultural exchange events introducing Japan through various kinds of cultural activities, such as theatre performances, workshops and demonstrations, exhibitions, tea ceremonies, etc.

Since 1986 the event has taken place 33 times so far. In Graz it will be the 34th Japan Week. The aim of this programme is to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the host country, Austria, and Japan. More than 300 Japanese artists and over 1000 guests from Japan are expected in November in Graz. All events are FREE and open to the public!

Organised by: IFF - International Friendship Foundation Tokyo/J and co-organised by Graz Tourismus und Stadtmarketing GmbH / City of Graz

• <http://www.graz.at/japanweek>

## In Brief

### 7TH EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT



26/27  
MARCH 09  
BRUSSELS

### 7th European Business Summit

**Dare and Care: sustaining Europe's ambitions; Financing, Staffing and Greening**

**26 & 27 March 2009 at TOUR & TAXIS - Brussels, Belgium**

The European Business Summit (EBS) was organised by BUSINESSEUROPE and the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium, in close cooperation with the European Commission and the Czech EU Presidency. After six editions the EBS has truly become Europe's number one dialogue between business leaders and policy makers.

With the theme "Dare and Care: sustaining Europe's ambitions; Financing, Staffing and Greening", EBS wanted to focus on the fact that Europe should dare and care better in order to sustain its ambitions to be a strong world player – especially in times of economic crisis. Daring means that Europe needs to become more entrepreneurial. Doing business in the EU must become easier and more rewarding. Europe should take the lead in R&D and (eco)innovation. More growth and jobs should no longer be a slogan, but a practice.

• <http://www.ebsummit.eu>

## In Brief

### Taoiseach-led Trade Mission to Japan 12–16 January 2009 - Tokyo and Osaka

Ireland's Prime Minister, Taoiseach Brian Cowen, visited Japan in January on the first ever Taoiseach-led trade mission to Japan. He was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Food, Brendan Smith, Minister for Trade & Commerce, John McGuinness, and senior management from 70 Irish companies. The objective of the mission was to establish stronger trading links between Japan and Ireland by highlighting the innovative nature of Irish companies to Japanese industry and drawing attention to the significant opportunities in the Japanese market to Irish business. It is hoped that the €46 million in new business announced will be just the beginning of a growing, mutually beneficial business relationship between the two countries. The mission also included a group of companies which spent the week studying best practice in manufacturing in Japan.

Organised by Enterprise Ireland

● <http://www.enterprise-ireland.com> (English)



● <http://www.enterprise-ireland.or.jp> (Japanese)

### Economic cooperation intensifies between Latvia and Japan

During his working visit to Japan from 23-27 January, Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis met with high-ranking officials of Japanese government, representatives of the European Business Council in Japan, the International Friendship Exchange Council and JTB Corporation. The main subject for the talks was economic cooperation, trade, investment and tourism promotion between Latvia and Japan. Latvia is already exporting to Japan construction lumber, pharmaceutical substances, medical and scientific equipment, fashion items, and food products. Despite the present economic situation, there is strong potential seen in such areas as logistic services, investments and tourism.

In 2008 three large Japanese logistic companies confirmed their interest to utilise the infrastructure of Latvian ports and railways for efficient delivery of goods to the Russia & CIS markets.

OEM (original equipment manufacture) production in Latvia in the textile industry for targeting the EU market is considered as another area of potential growth in cooperation with Japanese international manufacturers.

There are ongoing talks between interested parties in Latvia and Japan concerning the charter flights that would connect Latvia and Japan and transport more Japanese tourists to the Baltic States.

Apart from that, in 2008 three IT companies from Latvia established their presence in Japan:

**TiVi.com** is offering mobile video streamlining applications.  
**SIA Zabbix** concluded an authorised partnership agreement with NTT ComTechnology for open-source network management system Zabbix distribution in the Japanese market.

**Real Sound Lab** opened an office in Japan for promotion of the world's first acoustic-power equaliser technology CONEQ.

● <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/news/Newsletters/CurrentLatvia/2009/January/49/>

### Japan-Danube Friendship Year 2009 Austria-Bulgaria-Hungary-Romania

In 2009 Japan is celebrating the following commemorative years with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

- Austria: the 140th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations
- Bulgaria: the 50th Anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations
- Hungary: the 140th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the 50th Anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations
- Romania: the 50th Anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations

With a view to further strengthening the friendly relations with these four countries along the Danube, the government of Japan has designated the year 2009 as the "Japan-Danube Friendship Year".

Japan, in close cooperation with the four countries, will organise various commemorative events throughout the year.

Events calendars are available on the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for the events in Japan and the respective Japanese Embassies for the events in one or some of the four countries.

● <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/idfy2009/index.html>

Austria - Japan Year 2009

● <http://www.austria-japan2009.org/>

Hungary - Japan Year 2009

● [http://www.hu.emb-japan.go.jp/2009/home\\_h.html](http://www.hu.emb-japan.go.jp/2009/home_h.html)

Bulgaria - Japan Year 2009

● <http://www.bg.emb-japan.go.jp/anniversary/bg>

Romania - Japan Year 2009

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



### Official visit of Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Japan



From 25–29 January 2009 a Bulgarian official delegation visited Japan on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Several political, business and cultural events were organised during the visit. The Bulgarian business delegation, headed by Mr. Georgi Stoev, participated in the economic forum and held the 21st session of the joint Bulgarian-Japanese Economic Council. The session was attended by representatives of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., Kawasaki Kisen, Nippon Yusen (NYK Line), Mitsui&Co. Ltd., Itochu Corp., Yazaki Corp., Yamamoto Perfumery Mitsubishi Corp., Yokushukai, Iwata Chizaki Inc., Meiji Diaries Corp., Marubeni Corp., Pemnta - Ocean Construction, Japan Carbon Finance and by government representatives from MOFA, METI and JICA. Presented at the economic session were an Economic Outlook for Bulgaria and FDI opportunities, including renewable energy projects, activities in the photovoltaic industry, ODA official development assistance to Bulgaria and Container Terminal projects.

● <http://www.bcci.bg>



## In Brief

### Forum: Japan Day - Sophia-Antipolis 27 March 2009 - France

Seminar on Japanese clusters for the PACA cluster members interested in collaborating with their Japanese counterparts, raising their awareness regarding the current Japanese environment as well as offering an opportunity for an in-depth discussion. Three prominent speakers attended the seminar: Ms Androu, researcher at the CNRS at Université Paris Ouest-Nanterre-La Défense, Mr. Kataoka, Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Paris and Mr. Montaud, General Director of Thésame.

Organisers: JETRO Lyon, Fondation Sophia-Antipolis and co-organiser: Université Paris Ouest-Nanterre La Défense

- <http://www.jetro.go.jp/france/lyon/>
- <http://www.sophia-antipolis.org>



**Sophia  
cafe**

日仏関係強化クラスター国際交流プロジェクトとそのビジネスチャンス

FRANCE - JAPON : COMMENT ABORDER LES PARTENARIATS D'AFFAIRES ET LES PROJETS COLLABORATIFS ENTRE PÔLES.

Vendredi 27 mars 2009 à 9h00  
Fondation Sophia Antipolis, Place Sophie LaFitte (salle Picasso)

AVANT  
Sumitomo SUTO, Directeur Général de JETRO Lyon  
Anne ANDROUAS, Directrice adjointe du Master 2 Développement économique territorial à l'Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense  
Susumu KATAOKA, Conseiller section commerciale à l'Ambassade de Japon à Paris  
Arnaud MONTAUD, Directeur Général de Thésame et responsable du programme de collaboration RIF (Accorantique avec le Japon)

inscription gratuite et obligatoire.  
Fonction: Mail: [fr@fr.sophia-antipolis.org](mailto:fr@fr.sophia-antipolis.org) / [www.sophia-antipolis.org](http://www.sophia-antipolis.org)



### Short intensive French language course for Nagasaki students

ISUGA is organising a two-week French language course for students wishing to study or live in France for a period of time. Objectives are an initiation to French language & culture and visits to some of the sights in and around Quimper.

In 2008 students went to Pont Aven, a picturesque town famous for its painters and numerous art galleries. This is the place where Paul Gauguin painted his notorious "Yellow Christ" now exhibited in a US museum.

The course includes 30 hours with 3 hours tuition every morning for 2 weeks, taught by a qualified French teacher.

The next session is scheduled for early September 2009.

- [http://asia.isuga.fr/en/student\\_s\\_comer/summer\\_program](http://asia.isuga.fr/en/student_s_comer/summer_program)

### World Sustainable Energy Days 2009 February 2009- Wels, Austria



The World Sustainable Energy Days is the largest annual conference in the field of sustainable energy use in Europe, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings and industry.

The conference was organised from 25-27 February 2009 in Wels/Austria and once more offered a unique combination of events:

- European Pellet Conference
- Efficiency 09 - European Energy Efficiency Conference:
- Energy Efficiency Services - Markets and Technologies
- Energy Efficiency Watch
- Energy Efficient Cooling of Buildings
- Regional Biomass Action Plans
- Technical site visits

- <http://www.wsed.at>
- <http://www.esv.or.at>

### Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Japan on Social Security

On 1 March 2009 the Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Japan on social security came into force. This means a major change in the applicable legislation (on social security) for Japanese employees in the Netherlands. As from the moment of entry into force of the Agreement, Japanese workers who are posted in the Netherlands do not have an obligation to be insured in the Netherlands for social security anymore.

To be posted in the Netherlands, these workers will have to present themselves at the Japanese Competent Institution in Japan (it may also be possible that the employer will take action on this matter). Further information on this can be provided by the competent social security institutions in Japan.

The direct consequence of not being insured in the Netherlands is that Japanese employers no longer have to pay social security contributions for the Dutch obligatory insurance schemes.

As a direct consequence for Japanese employees in the Netherlands, there is no more entitlement to Dutch child allowances and social security benefits; nor do Japanese employees have to have compulsory insurance anymore in the Netherlands for sickness and health.

- [http://www.jcc-holland.nl/the-japanese\\_dutch\\_agreement\\_on\\_social\\_security\\_full\\_news-en-540.html](http://www.jcc-holland.nl/the-japanese_dutch_agreement_on_social_security_full_news-en-540.html)

### XI Spain-Japan Forum Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain - October 2008



More than 100 representatives from the public and private sectors attended the XI Spain-Japan Forum held in Santiago de Compostela. The programme was composed of 4 sessions devoted to "Bilateral academic exchanges", "Scientific innovation as the engine of development in Spain and Japan", "Architecture and design: elements of dialogue between Spain and Japan" and "Commercial relations between Spain and Japan: sectors of opportunity".

The last conference was devoted to the twinning between the Saint James' Way and the Japanese Kumano Kodo route -both World Heritage Sites- as a means to increase the number of Japanese tourists in Galicia.

Created in 1997, the Spain-Japan Forum acts as a meeting of public authorities and civil society organisations of both countries with the primary aim of promoting bilateral relations in political, economic and cultural areas.

Organised by the Government of Spain, the General Secretary of External Relations of the Regional Government of Galicia, the Spain-Japan Council Foundation and co-organised by the Embassy of Japan in Spain

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

### Distance-Learning Japanese



The School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield

offers a number of Japanese courses and degrees which can be taken by distance-learning. As a result, it is possible to study Japanese anywhere in the world and, as the courses are part-time, study can be fitted around work and personal commitments. Alongside study with text and audio-visual materials, students engage in on-line interaction with academic tutors as well as fellow students. On-line study is supplemented by face-to-face classes during an intensive summer residential held each year in Hiroshima and Sheffield.

- <http://www.shef.ac.uk/seas/dlc>

## Calendar

Date/Location	Details	Contacts
3 April 09 Tokyo, Japan	<b>Seminar</b> How should industries respond to REACH and globally influential EU standards?	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm">http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm</a>
6 April 2009 Tokyo, Japan	<b>Seminar</b> Towards EU-Japan Cooperation in Regional Policies: Foster Investment in Innovative Regions	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm">http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm</a>
23 April 2009 Brussels, Belgium	<b>Conference</b> Data Protection and Privacy in the European Union and in Japan	Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce <a href="http://www.bja.be">http://www.bja.be</a>
24 April 2009 Tokyo, Japan	<b>Seminar</b> Economic & Environmental Challenges for the Automotive Industry in the EU and Japan	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm">http://www.eu-japan.gr.jp/english/business/seminars/next/index.cfm</a>
4 - 7 May 09 Tokyo, Japan	<b>Seminar</b> Auslandsvorbereitung Japan Hostcountry training Japan Successful co-operation with Japanese	IFIM Institut für Interkulturelles Management GmbH <a href="http://www.ifim.de/programs/av/av_jap.pdf">http://www.ifim.de/programs/av/av_jap.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.ifim.de/formular/seminarbuchung.aspx">http://www.ifim.de/formular/seminarbuchung.aspx</a>
12 May 09 Brussels, Belgium	<b>First European SME Week</b> "One Stop Shop" Event - First Steps in Japan	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="mailto:seminar@eu-japan.eu">seminar@eu-japan.eu</a> <a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/event-sme.html?year=2009">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/events/event-sme.html?year=2009</a>
26 June - 3 July 2009 Tokyo, Japan	<b>European Commission-funded Programme</b> Training Mission in Japan <World Class Manufacturing> <b>Application deadline: closed</b>	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="mailto:office@eu-japan.eu">office@eu-japan.eu</a> <a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html</a>
19 - 23 October 2009 Tokyo, Japan	<b>European Commission-funded Programme</b> Training Mission in Japan <World Class Manufacturing> <b>Application deadline: 11 June 2009</b>	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation <a href="mailto:office@eu-japan.eu">office@eu-japan.eu</a> <a href="http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html">http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training/world-class-manufacturing.html</a>

## 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](mailto:michelson@eu-japan.eu)



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