

Kobe University Brussels European Centre

Opening Symposium

A New Era of Japan – Europe Academic Cooperation

3 - 7 March 2011

Date : Friday March 4

Venue: Square Brussels Meeting Centre, Mont des Arts-Kunstberg, 1000 Brussels

Opening : 10:00 - 12:00 (The Arc)

“Japan-EU Education Policy Seminar

Internationalisation of Higher Education in Japan and the European Union”

- Opening Address: Dr Hideki Fukuda, President of Kobe University
- Speech: HE Mr Nobutake Odano, the Ambassador of Japan to the European Union
- Speech: HE Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council
- Lecture: Representative of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (tbc)
- Lecture: Mr Xavier Prats Monne, Deputy Director General, Education and Culture DG, European Commission
- Lecture: Mr Laurent Bocherou, Acting Head of Unit, International Cooperation Policy, D/1
DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Lecture: Prof Dr Paul Van Cauwenberge, Rector of Ghent University
- Lecture: Dr Hideki Fukuda, President of Kobe University

Research Sessions: 13:30 - 18:00 (The Arc, Room 311, Room 313, Room 314)

“Japan Europe University Networks”

[The Arc] 13:30 - 15:00

Representatives of universities in Japan and Europe will discuss issues and prospects for future collaboration.

“Protein Kinase C: A key molecule from Kobe University”

[Room 311] 13:30 - 18:00

Protein kinase C was found in Kobe University in 1977. This is a key molecule in the various cellular responses such as proliferation, differentiation and neuronal functions. We focus on the progress of PKC research in this symposium and promote the collaboration between Kobe University and various EU universities.

Speakers:

Prof Godefridus Peters, VU Medical Center
Prof Isabel Merida, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
Prof Matthijs Verhage, VU Medical Center
Assoc Prof Fabienne Willems, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Prof Naoaki Saito, Kobe University
Prof Yasuhito Shirai, Kobe University

“Historical role of Belgium and the Netherlands in European Integration”

[Room 313] 15:30 - 18:00

Today, Brussels is considered by many as a kind of Capital of Europe and its centrality should be considered in historical context that Belgium and Netherlands or Low Countries have played in the long process of European Integration is understood. So this symposium focuses the function and structure of metropolitan cities in Low Counties from 14th to 17th century.

Speakers:

Prof Wim Blockmans, Universiteit Leiden
Prof Bruno Blonde, Universiteit Antwerpen
Prof Clé Lesger, Universiteit van Amsterdam
Prof Herman Van der Wee, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Prof Peter Spufford, University of Cambridge
Prof Takashi Okunishi, Kobe University

“Bacillus biotechnology and its prospective future”

[Room 314] 13:30 - 18:00

Bacillus research is one of the leading activities in biotechnology developed in EU and Japan. Bacillus biotechnology has been established and maintained involving a number of successful projects such as the EU-funded BACELL. In this session, five speakers present their expertise along with their cooperative experiences and discuss about the future prospects.

Speakers:

Prof Colin Harwood, University of Newcastle
Prof Jan Maarten van Dijk, University of Groningen
Dr Philippe Noirot, INRA, CRJ
Prof Bernard Joris, Université de Liège
Prof Ken-ichi Yoshida, Kobe University

“Between Survival and Sustainability

- The Corporate Social Responsibility in The Times of Economic Crisis”

Thursday March 3 14:30 - 18:30 European Economic and Social Committee

Both European and Japanese businesses are considering how to balance their profitability, social considerations and environmental sustainability. In this symposium, participants are expected to discuss behaviours of European and Japanese businesses, to show best practices, and drawing lessons from each other.

Speakers:

Ms Eve Päärendson, European Economic and Social Committee
Mr Sandy Boyle, European Economic and Social Committee
Prof Silke Bustamante, Berlin School of Economics and Law
Mr Pedro Ortun, Directorate General Enterprise and Industry (tbc)
Mr Richard Howitt, European Parliament (tbc)
Mrs Vladimira Drbalová, European Economic and Social Committee
Ms Yukako Kinoshita, Japan Business Council in Europe
Mrs Laure Batut, European Economic and Social Committee (tbc)
Mrs Evelyne Pichenot, European Economic and Social Committee
Prof Hiromasa Kubo, Kobe University
Prof Katsuhiko Kokubu, Kobe University
Assoc Prof Yuki Sekine, Kobe University

“Roles of Culture on the Foundation of European Integration”

Saturday March 5 13:45 - 17:30
Université libre de Bruxelles

Which role does culture play in the construction process of Europe? While we can suppose it plays a positive part as the pivot of integration, we can also assume it plays a negative part as it produces a barrier between the inside and the outside, prompting friction and opposition. The symposium investigates these differences in culture's functions in the development of the European Union.

Speakers:

Prof Helmut Eberhart, University of Graz
Assoc Prof Gilles Ferragu, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense
Mr Salvatore Somma, University of Naples "L'Orientale"
Prof Paul Aron, Université libre de Bruxelles
Prof Isabelle Meuret, Université libre de Bruxelles
Prof Tomokazu Sakano, Kobe University
Prof Kazuko Iwamoto, Kobe University
Assoc Prof Kazunari Sakai, Kobe University
Assoc Prof Satoshi Terao, Kobe University
Dr Shinnosuke Matsui, Kobe University

“Europe-Japan Technology Exchange toward Contribution of IRT to Medical Care and Welfare - From Physical Assistance to Cognitive Assistance”

Monday March 7 10:00 - 18:00 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Information and Robotics Technology (IRT) is expected to play a vital role in dealing with the aging society, by assisting people not only physically but also cognitively. European countries are very advanced in the field of medical care and welfare, and many research activities dealing with IRT are ongoing. Also in Kobe University a healthcare engineering research group was established. The group includes not only engineers, but also health science researchers. The aim of this group is to utilize IRT effectively to progress healthcare and welfare. In this workshop, we will exchange ideas between Europe and Japan, aiming at the contribution of IRT to medical care and welfare. We will also discuss Europe-Japan Collaboration funding opportunities.

Speakers:

Ms Marie-Elisha Lerouge, Verhaert Masters in Innovation
Dr Eric Demeester, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Dr Peter Deboutte, In-HAM vzw
Prof Herman van der Kooij, University of Twente
Dr Thierry Janssens, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Assoc Prof David A Abbink, Delft University of Technology
Prof Herman Bruyninkcx, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Dr Stephan Pascall, European Commission
Dr Greet Bilsen, Leuven Research & Development
Prof Yasuyoshi Yokokohji, Kobe University
Prof Zhiwei Luo, Kobe University
Assoc Prof Hiroshi Kawaguchi, Kobe University

* The contents of the symposium may change without prior notice. Please check for details in the programme, which will be distributed at the symposium.

Organizer: Kobe University

Under the auspices of: The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; The European Commission; The European Economic and Social Committee; The Japan Association of National Universities; The Federation of Japanese Private Colleges and Universities Associations
Kyoto University, Osaka University, Kwansai Gakuin University, Kansai University,

In cooperation with: Université libre de Bruxelles, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Université catholique de Louvain, Universiteit Gent, Universiteit Antwerpen
Please send the following information to Kobe University International Affairs Planning Division.

Registration: (E-mail: intl-relations@office.kobe-u.ac.jp)

Name, title, phone number, affiliation, and E-mail address