



EU-Japan Regional Cluster Forum

**Building cooperation between European and Japanese
research & innovation regional clusters**

2&3 December 2008, Yokohama

Objectives

Globalisation of research and innovation and global competition are putting a new emphasis on the role of regional clusters and further their development. Clusters increasingly see the need to link with other clusters on the international level building on complementarities in order to improve their global reach.

In Europe, regional clusters seen as key drivers for competitiveness, innovation and regional development are being promoted through both national-level measures and EU-level support instruments, notably the 7th EU Research Framework Programme, the Cohesion Policy Funds and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

In Japan, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) have been promoting the “Knowledge Cluster Initiative”, “City Area Program” and “Industrial Cluster Project for the reinforcement of the international competitiveness and development of regions.

The objective of the EU-Japan Regional Cluster Forum is to stimulate and facilitate global outreach of European and Japanese clusters through:

- Increasing mutual awareness on cluster policies, development methods and management practices, and
- Fostering cooperation between research and innovation regional clusters in Europe and in Japan.

Organisers

The European Commission, in collaboration with the EU Member States
The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
The Cabinet Office
In cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation

Date

2-3 December 2008 (same time and venue as the annual fair "Cluster Japan 2008")

Venue

Pacifico Yokohama Conference Centre, Yokohama, Japan
<http://www.pacifico.co.jp/english/index.html>

Interpretation English/Japanese interpretation will be provided for both the cluster-to-cluster bilateral meetings and the seminar

Targeted attendance

Managers of Japanese and European clusters as well research, industrial, financial representative of clusters; European and Japanese officials from ministries, embassies and regional development agencies

Why Clusters should participate

- Strengthening worldwide leading position
- Improvement of global competitiveness
- Easier access to targeted markets
- Access to know-how not available within your own cluster
- Exchange of information and experience at an international level
- Comparing with the best in technology and know-how
- Establishing new networks in special technology or application fields
- Improved international visibility
- Building mutual trust between partners

Registration: Free of charge but compulsory

In Japan: By sending your name and contact details by email to the contact points below or by entering them through the homepage of the event “Cluster Japan 2008”

In Europe: By sending by email your name and contact details to the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan at: Delegation-Japan-st@ec.europa.eu

Contact persons

Delegation of the European Commission to Japan, Dr. Philippe de Taxis du Poët, (Philippe.de-Taxis-du-Poet@ec.europa.eu) and Mr. Akira Kimura (Akira.Kimura@ec.europa.eu), Phone: 03-3239-0629, Fax: 03-3261-5194

European Commission, DG Research in Brussels: Dr. Leonidas Karapiperis, Leonidas.karapiperis@ec.europa.eu

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Mr. Iwasawa, Imazaki, Phone:03-3501-2067 E-mail: iwasawa-masaru@meti.go.jp

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT), Regional R&D Promotion Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Messrs Suzuki, Tanabe, Yamashita, and Yasuda, Phone:03-6734-4023 E-mail: tiiki@mext.go.jp

Programme

(names of speakers to be provided later)

☉ **2 December (all day) and 3 December (morning)**

Face-to-face meetings between EU and Japanese Clusters + visiting the fair "Cluster Japan 2008"

☉ **2 December Evening**

Joint reception Cluster Japan 2008 / EU-Japan Regional Cluster Forum

☉ **3 December Afternoon**

Seminar of the EU-Japan Regional Cluster Forum

13:30 – 14:00

Opening session

- i Japan speakers
- i EU speakers

14:00 – 15:45

Session 1: Cluster policies

- i Policies towards world-class clusters in the EU
- i Clusters in the EU Research and Regional Programmes
- i Role of clusters in regional development and innovation in EU countries
- i Knowledge Cluster policies, regional development, innovation organisations and clusters internationalization in Japan
- i Japanese experience of fostering regional innovative activities through "the Industrial Cluster" Project

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

Session 2: Management practices and tools for the internationalisation of Clusters

- i Survey on success factors of international industrial partnerships in industrial clusters areas
- i What it takes to be a globally competitive cluster
- i Presentation from a Japanese cluster about its experience in international cooperation
- i Seeing the whole picture: How cluster mapping can facilitate internationalisation
- i Example of EU-Japan cluster cooperation

17:30 -18:00

Closing Session: conclusions and follow up

- i EU speakers
- i Japan speakers