



VULCANUS IN EUROPE – HOST A JAPANESE INTERN AND BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT!

The EU-Japan Centre is excited to announce the opening of the recruitment campaign for the next 'Vulcanus in Europe' session, which will take place in 2026.



Next year, the Vulcanus programme will bring to Europe 15 graduate and postgraduate students in science, technology, or engineering from all across Japan. With its world-renowned engineering and hi-tech industries, Japan has some of the best universities in this field. Thanks to Vulcanus, some of the brightest students from these universities will collaborate in person with your research and development team.

Don't miss the chance to host a Vulcanus intern. You will benefit from a different culture and see problems from a new perspective. This is your chance to start building a solid bridge to the Japanese working culture and business market!

It is your company that will choose the student: the EU-Japan Centre will help you throughout the process by providing a shortlist of candidates, suitable for your offer. The shortlist will be based on the students' academic scores, personal background and the recommendations of their mentors.

Furthermore, before the traineeship, students will undergo an intensive language course in your company's working language, to facilitate immediate integration with your team.

Don't miss this chance! Visit our website at the link below or email us at vulcanus@eu-japan.eu

The traineeship will last for 6 months, from Mid-September 2026 to mid-March 2027.

The application deadline is: 20 September 2025 (for new companies) and 30 September (for former host companies).

On pages 6 to 9 we released two interviews with recent participants to our Vulcanus in Europe programme and its equivalent for EU students - the Vulcanus in Japan programme.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-europe>

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One training programme on Japanese business culture targeting EU SMEs interest to gain knowledge about Japan.

One sectoral business mission targeting EU SMEs and Clusters active in the **Smart factories & Robotics sectors**.

Two opportunities to expand or start your activities with Japan.

Benefit from a two-week-long training with tailored meetings in Japan. Exhibit with the EU-Japan Centre and 12 other SMEs in leading Japanese trade fairs to meet potential Japanese partners.

Would you like to know more? See page 4.



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation
一般財団法人日欧産業協力センター

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“INVEST IN EU HUB” WEBINAR – DRIVING JAPANESE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EU’S AUTOMOTIVE AND OTHER SECTORS

26 JUNE 2025, ONLINE

The Invest in EU Hub informs potential Japanese investors about investment opportunities in the EU including organising webinars to explain EU policy instruments that offer business opportunities and can strengthen Japan-EU industrial cooperation.

In March, the Hub’s first webinar looked at the key provisions of the Net-Zero Industrial Act and Clean Industrial Deal (NZIA/CID), highlighting their impact on industries and the business and investment opportunities they can generate for Japanese companies. The Hub’s next webinar, on 26 June, will look at ‘Opportunities for Japanese business and investors’ linked to the ‘Industrial Action Plan for the European automotive sector’. As the automotive sector undergoes the twin challenges of a transformational switch to clean mobility and rapidly integrating digital technologies, the Action Plan outlines the EU’s strategic initiatives aimed at reinforcing its leadership in clean, digital, and competitive mobility. The webinar will highlight key investment implications for Japanese automotive businesses in areas such as electric vehicle infrastructure, battery production, and autonomous driving technologies, and will outline the evolving EU regulatory landscape and market dynamics that impact foreign investment. It will explore potential collaborative ventures between Japanese and European companies aimed at fostering mutual growth and innovation in the automotive sector. The keynote speaker will be Mark Nicklas, Head of Unit – ‘Automotive, Mobility Industries’ at DG GROW.

The Hub coordinates its work with the EU member-states’ Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA). As global trade conditions become volatile, on 17 June the Hub hosted the second meeting of the IPAs’ representatives in Japan to share ideas, strengthen cooperation, address collectively the challenges and opportunities facing the global investment landscape and seek ways to provide reassurance to investors.

「対EU投資ハブ」ウェビナー：EUの自動車産業およびその他の分野における日本の投資機会の促進 2025年6月26日（オンライン開催）
対EU投資ハブは、日本の投資家に対して、EU内の投資機会に関する情報を提供しており、EUの政策手段について説明するウェビナーの開催などを通じて、日本とEUの産業協力を強化することを目的としています。

3月には、第1回ウェビナーが開催され、「ネット・ゼロ産業法（NZIA）」および「クリーン産業ディール（CID）」の主要な条項に焦点を当て、これらが産業界に与える影響や、日本企業にとってのビジネス・投資機会について紹介されました。

第2回となる次回のウェビナーは、6月26日に「欧州自動車産業のための産業行動計画」に関連した「日本企業および投資家にとってのビジネス機会」をテーマとして開催されます。

自動車産業は、クリーンモビリティへの転換とデジタル技術の急速な統合という二重の課題に直面しており、同行動計画では、クリーンかつデジタルで競争力のあるモビリティ分野におけるEUのリーダーシップを維持、強化するための戦略的な取り組みが示されています。本ウェビナーでは、日本の自動車関連企業にとっての重要な投資機会として、電気自動車（EV）インフラ、バッテリー生産、自動運転技術などの分野を取り上げるとともに、外国投資に影響を与えるEUの規制環境や市場動向の変化についても解説します。

また、日本と欧州の企業間の協力による、相互の成長とイノベーションを促進するための連携の可能性についても議論されます。基調講演は、欧州委員会域内市場・産業・起業・中小企業総局（DG GROW）「自動車・モビリティ産業ユニット」ユニット長のマーク・ニクラス氏が務めます。

また、対EU投資ハブは、EU加盟国の投資促進機関（IPA）との連携も進めています。世界的な貿易環境が不安定化する中、ハブは6月17日に日本国内のIPA代表者による第2回会合を開催し、情報共有や連携強化を図るとともに、グローバルな投資環境が直面する課題と機会への対応、投資家への信頼確保の方策などについて意見交換を行いました。



The Commission presents a **comprehensive Action Plan** to keep European Automotive Sector competitive.

THE ACTION PLAN BUILDS ON THE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE WITH THE INDUSTRY AND WILL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES:



Please visit our website for more information on June’s webinar on the EU Automotive Action Plan or to access the recording, report and presentation from March’s webinar on NZIA/CID.

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/invest-eu-hub-webinars-seminars>

6月の「EU自動車行動計画」ウェビナーに関する情報、またはNZIA/CIDに関する3月のウェビナーの録画/レポート/プレゼンテーションへのアクセスは、
<https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/events/invest/webinars-seminars> まで。

If you have any questions about the Hub, please contact us. 同ハブに関するご質問は、misaki.shigeno@eu-japan.or.jp までご連絡ください。

EJRC WEBINAR - DISCOVER THE START-UP ENVIRONMENT IN FUKUOKA CITY, JAPAN

20 JUNE 2025, ONLINE



The EU-Japan Centre's EU-Japan Regional Cooperation helpdesk will host a webinar highlighting the innovation and start-up support ecosystem of Fukuoka City, located in southern Japan.



Fukuoka, with over 2,000 years of history as a gateway to Asia, is known as one of Japan's most proactive cities in promoting entrepreneurship. It has implemented policies to attract start-ups and international talent, including becoming the first Japanese city to launch a start-up visa programme. The city actively supports new business creation through dedicated services and international events such as RAMEN TECH, held annually in October. The webinar is organised within the framework of the EU-Japan Regional & Cluster Cooperation Helpdesk and is open to European cluster managers,

regional representatives, start-up ecosystem enablers, and EU-based companies interested in entering the Japanese market. Participants will hear from representatives of the Fukuoka City Government and ecosystem partners about available support measures and internationalisation opportunities.

The programme also includes a testimonial from an entrepreneur operating under the start-up visa programme, offering practical insights into doing business in Fukuoka.

The event is free of charge (registration required) and will be held online via Zoom at 9:30 – 10:30 AM (CEST) / 4:30 – 5:30 PM (JST).

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/start-ups-and-innovation-fukuoka-city-japan-webinar>

EU-JAPAN BUSINESS COOPERATION IN AFRICAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

On 5 March 2025, the EU-Japan Centre promoted EU-Japan business cooperation in Africa at a hybrid seminar on “Japanese and French Companies Collaborating in Overseas Infrastructure Sector” in Tokyo.



The seminar was part of an ongoing study on France-Japan Cooperation in African Infrastructure Development commissioned by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT). The seminar welcomed other speakers from the public and private sectors, such as MLIT, the French Embassy in Japan, the French International Contractors (SEFI), Bouygues Asia, Oriental Consultants Global and Nippon Koei.

They all showcased multiple French-Japanese joint initiatives in Africa and showed how these projects can pave the way for joint expansion into other regions such as Southeast Asia.

The EU-Japan Centre's presentation provided a broader perspective on the topic by highlighting the existence of joint projects involving not only French companies but also companies from other EU Member States.



It also underlined how EU and Japanese companies can complement each other and create synergies when working together in foreign markets by sharing risks, financial resources, market expertise, partner networks and technologies. Finally, the EU-Japan Centre emphasised the win-win dimension of trilateral projects between the EU, Japan and Africa, which benefit all parties involved on a level playing field.

The event was a resounding success, with the audience showing a keen interest in fostering EU-Japan business cooperation in Africa.

BRING YOUR BUSINESS TO JAPAN – APPLY NOW!



Two opportunities for EU SMEs targeting Japan!
Contact us at: Follow-up_training@eu-japan.eu or visit our website by clicking on the pictures for more details.



MINERVA POLICY REPORTS: **DUAL-USE AND ADVANCED AI SYSTEMS IN JAPAN**

The EU-Japan Centre has recently published two reports under the **Minerva Policy Report project**.

The Dual-Use report examines the evolving landscape of dual-use technology trade and investment between the EU and Japan, aiming to identify key areas where EU-Japan collaboration can be strengthened while also addressing structural barriers and external risks that could impede further cooperation.

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/publications/minerva-policy-report-dual-use>

The report on Advanced AI examines Japan's evolving role in the development and governance of advanced AI systems across five interconnected dimensions: national policy, ethical direction, institutional coordination, collaboration with the European Union, and global positioning.

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/publications/minerva-policy-report-advanced-ai-systems>



MARKET ACCESS WORKSHOPS ON THE RISE

In its ongoing efforts to help European SMEs to access the Japanese market, the EU-Japan Centre has organized on a regular basis since 2015 various market access workshops to explain the specificities of doing business in Japan, focusing on cultural aspects and certain industrial sectors.

The EU-Japan Centre is pleased to report the successful conclusion of four more online workshops since our December issue. We organized three cultural workshops on Japanese Business Culture, one with Klaipeda Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (Lithuania), another with ALMI Företagspartner Skåne AB (Sweden), and a third hybrid cultural workshop co-organized with two partners - Podlaska Regional Development Foundation (Poland), and Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic. In addition, we had the pleasure to partner with the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia on a workshop about the ICT sector in Japan.

This year, due to the many Member States' delegations, both at a national and regional level, planned to benefit from the World Expo 2025 held in Osaka, the demand for the Centre's Market Access Workshops is high. In this case, the workshops are intended as pre-mission briefings, preparing companies to meet with potential Japanese partners face-to-face and take advantage of business opportunities in their sector. Due to the high demand for workshops from partners, it might be difficult to follow up on ad-hoc requests until November or December 2025, but do not hesitate to contact us if you are an EU-based support organization interested in organizing an on-site or online workshop at a later date. Please contact Ms Ana Horvatin at workshops@eu-japan.eu with information about the sector of interest, prospective times and information about your event or mission!

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/market-access-workshops>

FIRST DEFENCE BUSINESS MISSION TO JAPAN STARTING NEW ALLIANCES FOR EU SMES

The Japan Tax & Public Procurement (JTTP) Helpdesk of the EU-Japan Centre and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Japan co-organized the first Defence Business Mission to Japan in May. Twelve EU SMEs were selected from over 40 candidates to showcase their products at the three-day DSEI 2025 Japan defence exhibition at Makuhari Messe in Chiba.



The participating companies are active in a variety of sectors, including drone manufacturing, drone countermeasure systems, personal protection solutions, fighting vehicle seating, telecommunications, gyro stabilization equipment, underwater cable protection, blast protection technologies, and cryptographic solutions.

The networking event at the start of the mission was well attended, with over 110 representatives from Japanese businesses and the defence community, EU companies already present in Japan, and officials from EU member states. Speakers from the Ministry of Defense's procuring agency ATLA, METI, and EU, and Japanese SMEs shared valuable insights into the sector.

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/defence-mission>

With the support of METI, 15 short pitches were delivered by mission participants as well as Japanese SMEs, all of which were well received by the audience.

The DSEI exhibition itself proved to be a dynamic three-day event, attracting high-ranking visitors from the Japanese defence community and major integrators, as well as dignitaries from the EU and Member States. Numerous new connections were also made with representatives from other Asian countries attending DSEI.

With some participants already reporting concrete order requests, the first Defence Mission can be considered a success and is unlikely to be the last.

GREEN BUSINESS MISSION TO JAPAN COMPLETED

Earlier this year, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation welcomed 10 innovative European startups and SMEs to Tokyo during our Green Business Mission. Participating companies showcased their technologies, products and services during the Smart Energy Week 2025.

The programme, co-organised with the EU Business Hub, also featured a targeted matchmaking event to connect European innovators with Japanese counterparts. With the support of JETRO and Sakura Deeptech Shibuya, the mission created a platform for meaningful dialogue and potential business collaboration in Japan's growing green economy.



The Centre is now preparing for the 2026 edition of the Green Business Mission. Our business missions offer direct access to Japanese industry stakeholders, visibility at major trade events, and tailored support to help companies navigate the Japanese market. If your company is considering expansion to Japan and is working in Green technologies, be sure to get in touch with us to receive future calls.

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/business-missions-Japan>

FROM JAPAN TO IRELAND: KOKI ITO'S JOURNEY WITH VULCANUS IN EUROPE

The EU-Japan Centre is excited to share an interview with Koki Ito, a student at Tohoku University, pursuing a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering, with a specialization in Neuroscience and Brain Research, who recently completed an internship at Astellas Pharma Ireland as part of the Vulcanus in Europe programme, session 2024/25. Now back in Japan, Koki reflects on his international experience, professional growth, and what he's gained from this experience.

By **KOKI ITO**

Vulcanus in Europe 2024/25 participant

1. When looking back at your Vulcanus experience, did it fulfil your expectations?

Koki: Absolutely. I had high expectations of working at a global company, and Astellas turned out to be the perfect place to meet those ambitions. During my time in Ireland, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the pharmaceutical and manufacturing industries, including exposure to areas such as production, supply chain management, and quality control. I was also directly involved in a data analysis and risk assessment project as a production student, which gave me valuable hands-on experience.

Living abroad was a fascinating experience for me as well. I felt a great sense of freedom while I was there. I really liked the way people work in Ireland — it's quite relaxed yet efficient.

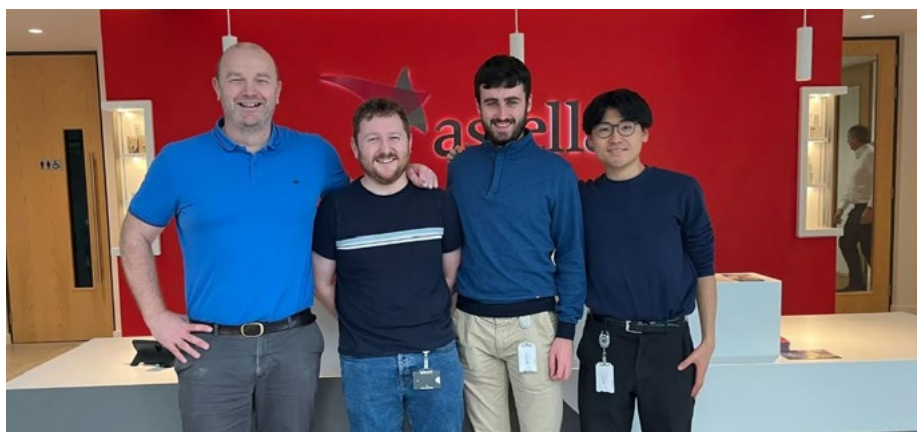
Overall, working at Astellas was a deeply meaningful experience. It gave me the opportunity to apply my skills in real-world projects and significantly boosted my confidence in working across cultures and building an international career.

2. Please describe your personal evolution.

Koki: If I look at my personality, the core has remained the same. However, my experience helped me build self-assertiveness and become more proactive in how I communicate and make decisions. I had to maintain close communication with my colleagues to ensure work progressed efficiently. This was especially true in the risk assessment project I joined, where effective communication played a key role in our success.



Koki Ito with James O'Neill (Lead, Pharma Manufacturing), Daniel Fealy (Process Engineer & Mentor), and Niall Marley (Engineering Graduate)



A WORD FROM THE SUPERVISOR

"Koki Ito joined the Astellas Kerry Plant in the Summer of 2024 and integrated very quickly into the Capsules Manufacturing team as a Graduate Support Engineer. Koki immediately made good connections within the department and engaged himself in the day-to-day activities in the area. His main areas of focus in the Capsule Manufacturing team were data analysis and completing root cause analysis. He also worked on extracting technical information from electronic batch records. In January 2025 Koki rotated to the Aseptic filling part of the business, and during his

time in this area, Koki got involved in area Risk Assessments, batch filling analysis, and the automation of reports using Python programming. This automation of reports will be of great benefit to the area in the future, and Koki also trained some of our employees on how to set these up and maintain them going forward. Koki made several presentations to our senior leadership team and made a very good impression on everybody at Astellas. Koki also got involved in our Graduate program activities, helping in local schools and community projects. It was a pleasure to host Koki as part of the Vulcanus project, and we wish him well in his future, which will surely be bright".

By **MARTIN MULREADY**, PLead, Pharma Manufacturing (Aseptics and Biologics), Astellas Ireland - Kerry Plant <https://www.astellas.com/ie/>
Vulcanus in Europe 2024/25 supervisor

VULCANUS IN EUROPE 2024 SESSION

On 24 March 2025, the Centre hosted a debriefing session for the Japanese science and engineering students who participated in the Vulcanus in Europe 2024 programme. The newly selected students for the 2025 session also attended this event.



The 2024 participants began the programme in April 2024. After completing a four-month intensive language course in their host countries—Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Spain—they undertook a seven-month industrial traineeship at their respective host companies. During the session, each student shared their challenges and achievements from both the language course and the industrial traineeship. They provided valuable insights into their experiences of living, studying, and working in Europe.

Many students reported gaining a deeper understanding of the history, culture, and customs of their host countries, and how these differ from those in Japan. They emphasized the importance of proactive behavior and effective communication with colleagues to achieve success in their roles. Several participants expressed a sense of accomplishment from their training outcomes. They noted that, prior to joining the programme, their aspirations and career plans to work abroad were vague.

However, after completing the programme, they now feel confident in their ability to pursue careers overseas. Some students mentioned specific goals, such as contributing to the international community through their expertise, pursuing a master's or doctoral degree at a European graduate school, or seeking employment opportunities in Europe.

Many participants indicated that the programme helped them to formulate concrete career plans focused on studying and working abroad.

The Centre expresses deep gratitude to the host companies that provided valuable internship opportunities to the students.

Launched in 1996, the Vulcanus in Europe programme offers Japanese students in engineering and other scientific fields the opportunity to participate in a programme consisting of an intensive language course followed by an industrial placement in EU countries.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/training-young-scientists-engineers-vine>

3. Please describe your professional development.

Koki: One of the key skills I developed through the internship was my knowledge of Python, a programming language. I contributed to the development of an automation program in Python, helping improve efficiency in daily tasks. I also gained experience in the pharmaceutical manufacturing process, based on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards as well.

While I did improve my hard skills to a certain extent, the most significant transformation was in my soft skills.

During my time at Astellas, I was primarily involved in data analysis and had the opportunity to give presentations almost every week. Although I initially struggled with presenting in English, I can now confidently say that giving presentations in English is no longer a challenge.

These experiences allowed me to develop not only technical skills in data handling and interpretation, but also the ability to

clearly communicate complex information to diverse audiences.

4. What are your current goals and ambitions?

Koki: My current goal is to gain solid professional experience as an engineer at a global IT company after finishing grad school, where I will focus on consulting and technology-driven software development. In the long term, I aim to become a global-minded professional who can lead international projects and deliver innovative solutions. My experience in Ireland strengthened my confidence and communication skills, which will be key to achieving this goal.

5. Any advice for other Japanese students willing to attend this programme?

Koki: Don't hesitate to take on the challenge. From my own experience, it's important to welcome and even enjoy the difficulties that come with working and living abroad. I think those challenging moments are what shape you and push you toward

becoming the person you want to be. I believe this program is best suited for students who are willing to embrace challenges and step out of their comfort zone.

6. Any funny or curious cultural shock anecdotes during your stay or after returning to Japan?

Koki: I would like to mention something about Irish "pints culture". One of the most memorable cultural experiences was during my first weekend in Ireland, in a town called Killorglin, where I was staying. I was lucky enough to join a traditional summer festival called the "Puck Fair" — and what an introduction to Irish culture it was. I went out with my host lady's grandson and his cousin, and to be honest, all we did was drink pints in a lively atmosphere. I was absolutely blown away by how many pints they could put away in such a short time. As for me, I didn't last nearly as long... I ended up spending the rest of the afternoon fast asleep. I'd say that was a proper Irish welcome.

INTERVIEWS WITH VULCANUS IN JAPAN ALUMNUS AND HIS HOST COMPANY, NTT CORPORATION

Carlos André Rodrigues Cunha, a 2022/23 alumnus of the Vulcanus in Japan programme, originally from Portugal, recently informed the EU-Japan Centre about his publication as second author in *Applied Physics Letters*.

The published paper stems from his Vulcanus internship at NTT Basic Research Laboratories in Atsugi, Japan, under the supervision of Dr. Makoto Kawano, the main author of the paper. Currently, Carlos works as an R&D engineer at IMEC in Leuven, Belgium, in the Etch group. Below, he shares insights into his experience with the Vulcanus programme.

1. When looking back at your Vulcanus experience, did it fulfil your expectations?

Carlos André: *Vulcanus went above and beyond my expectations! I applied because I was curious about Japanese culture, but the experience turned out to be so much more immersive than I ever imagined. The intensive language course at Naganuma was incredibly thorough, and I met some amazing people along the way. Some of my favorite memories are from visiting new places and trying activities I never thought I would get to experience.*

2. Please describe your personal evolution.

Carlos André: *Going to Japan turned out to be a transformative experience for me. In many situations, English wasn't widely understood, and I had to step out of my comfort zone to overcome the language barrier. There are challenges inherent to moving to a foreign country and having to adapt to a new life, new customs, and social habits. At the same time, it was a huge growth opportunity, and I feel I benefited greatly from it in my personal life.*

3. Please describe your professional development.

Carlos André: *The programme allowed me to work in an R&D center for a well-established Japanese company. I had the chance to experience the research environment in Japan, meet researchers from all over the world and gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge equipment and techniques.*



Carlos André Rodrigues Cunha (left) and Makoto Kawano (right) with colleagues



A WORD FROM THE SUPERVISOR

"I am a Research Scientist at Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) Corporation in Japan and had the privilege of supervising Carlos Cunha during his internship from January to August 2023. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Carlos and for the Vulcanus program in facilitating such a valuable experience.

During his internship, Carlos demonstrated remarkable dedication to my research on exploring the novel physical phenomena and device applications of diamond semiconductors. He quickly adapted to NTT's highly diverse research environment, driven by his exceptional motivation, work ethic, and communication skills. What impressed me most was his solid understanding of engineering physics, which enabled

him to swiftly master the operation of a wide range of specialized equipment and diligently analyze large volumes of experimental data. He also actively engaged in thoughtful scientific discussions with me, contributing valuable insights that helped with interpreting results and refining our research strategy. Thanks to his contributions, our research progressed significantly, and a paper based on our findings was published in *Applied Physics Letters*, a prestigious academic journal in the field of applied physics. His performance was truly outstanding and went far beyond what I had expected.

As outlined above, having Carlos as part of NTT was a truly valuable experience for me. I look forward to his future successes, and I sincerely hope that the partnership between the Vulcanus program and NTT will continue for years to come".

By **MAKOTO KAWANO**, Ph.D., Thin-Film Materials Research Group, Multidisciplinary Materials Design and Science Laboratory, NTT Basic Research Laboratories, NTT Corporation <https://www.brl.ntt.co.jp/e/>
Vulcanus in Japan 2022/23 supervisor



The Thin-Film Materials group, and especially my mentor Dr. Kawano, were extremely supportive. The skills I acquired at NTT laid a solid foundation for my career in the semiconductor industry and were a key factor in my decision to pursue this field for my master's thesis and professional career, at IMEC.

4. What are your current goals and ambitions?

Carlos André: I plan to continue exploring the world of semiconductors. In the future, I would like to branch out into other domains of physics, as a way to broaden my knowledge and expertise. I also hope to return to Japan someday, as I deeply appreciate the country's unique way of life and have so many fond memories of the time spent there.

5. Any advice for other European students willing to attend this programme?

Carlos André: Don't let fear of being overwhelmed stop you from applying. Stepping out of your comfort zone isn't always easy, but the support from fellow participants and the alumni network living in Japan can really make a difference. I also recommend reaching out to previous participants for advice before applying to get useful insights and feedback.

6. Any funny or curious cultural shock anecdotes during your stay or after returning to Europe?

Carlos André: There were many things I expected but still surprised me. But one thing I didn't anticipate was how, when leaving restaurants, the waiter would bid us goodbye in a very loud way so that the other waiters and kitchen staff could hear and thank us too. Another thing I didn't know beforehand (and really miss) are the onsen (hot springs), which can be found almost everywhere. The local festivals (matsuri) were also fascinating experiences that moved crowds to every small town and village to see the parades, dances and try the street food.

By **CARLOS ANDRÉ RODRIGUES CUNHA**, R&D engineer, IMEC Belgium,
<https://www.imec-int.com/en>
Vulcanus in Japan 2022/23 participant

VULCANUS IN JAPAN 2024/25 COMPLETION CEREMONY AND ALUMNI GET TOGETHER

Congratulations to all the Vulcanus in Japan students for the 2024/25 internship year, celebrated along with alumni.



On 14 March, the Vulcanus in Japan 2024/25 Completion Ceremony and Alumni Get Together events were held at Europe House in Tokyo.

The Ambassador of the EU to Japan, Jean-Eric Paquet (right photo), opened the event by encouraging the participants to strengthen EU-Japan relations and participated in a photo session. Subsequently, in a presentation titled "Success Stories After the Vulcanus Programme", three former alumni shared their journeys and provided valuable insights for current students.

Finally, Manuel Hubert, Managing Director of the EU-Japan Centre, awarded all 18 students of the 2024/25 session with certificates in recognition of their achievements. Thank you to all the former alumni and guests, who joined us to celebrate them.

Following the competition ceremony, a small reception was held with around 70 people, including current students, alumni, guests from the host companies, language school teachers, and market research coaches. The presentations and ceremony promoted communication among the participants, deepened their understanding, and raised interest.

Former alumni and current students exchanged opinions with each other, sharing their work experiences in Japanese companies and discussing how they improved their practical skills through specific work experiences. Students received valuable advice for their future studies and career paths. The participants felt the significance of this kind of networking activity, and many expressed their expectations for the next event.

The event ended with the "ippon-jime" (a unique Japanese clapping to celebrate the conclusion of a special event), and participants promised to return again.

Among the alumni speakers were: Mr. Saša Goran (Vulcanus in Japan 2014/15), Senior structural analysis engineer, Axelspace; Mr. Diego Fuerte (Vulcanus in Japan 2014/15), Talent Director, EY Strategy and Consulting; Ms. Maria Maslova (Vulcanus in Japan 2023/24), Obayashi Corporation.

Vulcanus in Japan started in 1997. The 8-month-long programme for European students in engineering and other scientific fields consists of a seminar about Japan, an intensive Japanese language course, and an industrial placement.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-japan>

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/training-young-scientists-engineers-vinji>



EU BUSINESS IN JAPAN WEBINARS – 250 MILESTONE

The EU-Japan Centre has recently reached its 250th “About Japan” webinar! The topic was on opportunities for EU companies in the Grid Technologies sector.

All our “About Japan” webinars are recorded and available on our website for EU businesses and organizations interested to learn about Japan and its specificities. Almost every webinar comes with a detailed PDF report, making in total nearly 500 documents free of access released over the past 12 years.

Spanning from foods to high-tech sectors, covering regulations and cross-cutting issues, presenting business culture aspects, and with hundreds of pages of content regularly updated, providing case studies and success stories examples, the EU Business in Japan is an essential source of information to help EU businesses access and expand in Japan.

Our last webinar before the summer break was focusing on the topic of **Heat pumps and the geothermal energy market in Japan**, the recording is available.

To discover more about our previous webinars:

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/past-events>

To read the reports:

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/library/publications-reports>

To understand Japanese business peculiarities:

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/library/videos-business-culture>

To learn from case studies and success stories:

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/procedures/import-export/case-studies-and-success-stories>

Are you an EU Business? Create an account now for free!

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/register>

CASE STUDY - CYNTERACT

Cyteract was born in Germany from a personal encounter with the challenges of rehabilitation. When a close friend of the founder suffered a stroke, they spent two years performing monotonous rubber-ball exercises. This experience sparked a simple but powerful question: Why must rehabilitation be tedious and demotivating?

From that insight emerged the idea of a smart, gamified glove—combining precise movement tracking with engaging software to turn therapy into play. What started as a school project quickly gained momentum. The founders took part in “Jugend forscht”, the largest European competition for young scientists. In 2016, they showcased their prototype at Ars Electronica, an international fair.

The Aachen-based startup gained valuable experience exhibiting at these fairs and, from 2016 onward, began mass-producing its products and expanding internationally.

Why Japan

Cyteract identified Japan as a strategic market for several reasons:

- Innovation-Friendly Approach to Healthcare

Japan leads the world in integrating robotics into medical practice. Clinics and hospitals actively adopt robotics, making it an ideal environment for Cyteract’s gamified rehabilitation solutions.

- Cultural Embrace of Gamification

Japanese patients and practitioners readily welcome character-driven interfaces and “joyful” designs. Unlike many European markets, consumers there expect and enjoy playful, engaging experiences in daily life—whether at train stations or in digital entertainment.

- Demographic Imperative

Japan’s rapidly aging population drives growing demand for preventative and restorative therapies.

Challenges

Language is one of the most obvious barriers. However, the help of professional translators at trade fairs overcomes this issue. Concerning Japanese business practices, they often proceed at their own pace; a non-committal “yes” requires careful interpretation. Cyteract learned that patience and trust are key to securing long-term partnerships in the land of the rising sun.



Advice for European SMEs

Unlike what is common in Europe (scheduling a meeting with a company “on the spot”), in Japan you have to invest in building your network, participating in trade fairs and studying the market. Underestimating the importance of these relationships can delay market entry and limit your company’s growth.

Moving forward, as Japan is further opening up its doors to European innovators, companies that invest early in local alliances and cultural understanding will find a highly receptive environment, and an unparalleled opportunity for expansion.

Text based on interview with **GERNOT SÜMMERMAN**, Co-Founder and CTO of Cyteract GMBH. <https://cyteract.com>

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/library/publication/case-study-cyteract>

More case studies at: <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessin japan/procedures/import-export/case-studies-and-success-stories>

SUCCESS STORY – CILCARE

Cilcare is a French biotech SME that focuses on the early detection and treatment of hearing disorders. The intuition of three female founders, who had previously worked together, led to the founding of Cilcare in 2014 — a company dedicated to advancing innovation in hearing health.

Hearing loss is a growing global health challenge, with over one billion young people at risk due to prolonged exposure to loud environments. Despite this, pharmaceutical research in the field remains limited, with no treatments addressing the root causes of hearing disorders. The company set up its headquarters in Montpellier, a key hub for life sciences companies known as MedVallée. Early institutional assistance, business angel investments, and bank funding enabled the company to create its first laboratory and generate revenue within six months of its inception.

Why Japan?

Cilcare identified Japan as a strategic market early on. It secured its first Japanese client in 2016.

The decision to do business in the land of the rising sun was based on two key factors:

- **Aging Population and Preventative Healthcare** – Japan has one of the world's most rapidly aging societies, and its healthcare approach emphasizes prevention rather than just treatment. Hearing disorders, though not life-threatening, significantly impact quality of life, making them a priority in Japan's public health strategy.
- **Hearing as an Established Market Segment** – Unlike in other regions, hearing healthcare is already integrated into Japan's commercial operations in pharmaceuticals. This means that when developing a drug for hearing loss, Japanese companies already have a clear path to commercialization, reducing market-entry barriers.

Over the years, Cilcare built strong relationships with key Japanese pharma players, including Shionogi and Astellas, signing multiple contracts.

In June 2024, Cilcare signed with Shionogi an exclusive option agreement, which grants Shionogi the right to license global rights to CIL001 and/or CIL003, two promising drug candidates aimed at treating hearing disorders, with a particular focus on addressing the increasing prevalence of hidden hearing loss and tinnitus.

The EU-Japan Centre's Support

The company benefited from the Centre's activities in many ways. It took part several times in the **Biotech Business Missions** organised by the Centre in 2017, 2023, and 2024. These missions included participation in BioJapan, the leading biotech fair in Japan.

The company highlights three major advantages of engaging with the EU-Japan Centre:

- **Trust and Credibility** – Being part of an EU delegation signals legitimacy. Since participants undergo a selection process, Japanese partners see them as serious and trustworthy.
- **Political and Institutional Network** – Beyond science, business in Japan is also about political alignment. Having ministries or EU bodies involved in discussions helps build confidence and provides a reference point in case of challenges.
- **Access to Well-Selected Partners** – Some key Japanese pharmaceutical companies do not actively participate in international events outside of Japan. However, they engage in targeted B2B meetings facilitated by the EU-Japan Centre, providing unique access to decision-makers who would otherwise be difficult to approach.

Advice to European SMEs

Expanding into Japan presents unique challenges, but Cilcare's experience highlights key lessons for European SMEs looking to enter the market:



Text based on an interview with **CELIA BELLINÉ**, CEO of Cilcare.

➡ <https://www.cilcare.com>

- **Be Transparent and Precise** – Japanese partners value clarity and consistency. Answer questions directly and truthfully, avoiding unnecessary elaboration. Transparency is critical, as discrepancies can harm credibility.
- **Commit to Cultural Understanding** – Engaging in cultural training and attending webinars on Japanese business etiquette helps build stronger relationships. Cilcare has actively invested in understanding Japanese corporate culture, which has significantly improved its interactions with partners.
- **Be Patient but Ready to Act Quickly** – While Japanese partnerships often take time to develop, some deals can materialize unexpectedly fast. Cilcare's agreement with Astellas was finalized in just two weeks, while other negotiations took up to three years. Consistency, persistence, and adaptability are key.
- **Leverage Institutional Support** – Being part of an EU-backed delegation provides credibility, facilitating trust-building with Japanese partners. Engaging with targeted B2B events helps reach decision-makers efficiently, particularly in pharma and biotech.

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/library/publication/case-study-cilcare>

More success stories at: <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/procedures/import-export/case-studies-and-success-stories>

EU AND JAPAN REAFFIRM CLOSE COOPERATION ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

The EU and Japan reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening their cooperation on trade and economic security at their 6th HLED.

On 8 May 2025, EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Šefčovič travelled to Japan for a series of meetings aimed at further strengthening the deep-rooted and long-standing EU-Japan trade and economic relationship. The cornerstone of the visit was the 6th High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED). [...] In light of the evolving global trade and security landscape, the two sides recognised the growing intersection between security, economy and technology. They also shared their respective concerns on such challenges as non-market policies and practices, as well as the closely linked issue of over-capacity. [...] Looking forward to building on and advancing EU-Japan trade and investment relations, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their cooperation, including via the HLED and joint efforts on economic security.

Source: European Commission

➔ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-and-japan-reaffirm-close-cooperation-trade-and-economic-security-2025-05-08_en

EU AND JAPAN REINFORCE TECH AND DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

On 12 May 2025, The EU and Japan held their third Digital Partnership Council in Tokyo to reinforce tech and digital cooperation between the EU and Japan.

In the face of current global geopolitical uncertainties, the EU and Japan reaffirmed the growing importance of their partnership. They recognise the need to boost their competitiveness and promote a value-driven approach to global digital governance. Additionally, they aim to bolster their economic security by fostering resilience in critical digital technologies. [...]

The EU and Japan agreed to further cooperate on core digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), 5G/6G, semi-conductors, high performance computing and quantum technology. They will also strengthen their collaboration on data governance and online platforms, submarine cables, Arctic connectivity, digital identities, trust services, and cybersecurity. [...] The fourth Digital Partnership Council is planned for 2026, in Brussels.

Source: European Commission

➔ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1185

8TH EU-JAPAN DIGITAL POLICY DIALOGUE: ADVANCING THE DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

On 1 April 2025, the EU and Japan held their 8th Digital Policy Dialogue in Brussels to enhance cooperation in key digital areas.



The event was co-chaired by Thomas Skordas, Deputy Director-General of DG CNECT, and Toshihiko Shibuya, Deputy Director-General for IT Strategy of METI.

During the Dialogue, policy updates and further cooperation opportunities were discussed in the areas of semiconductors, quantum technologies, online platforms, data governance and digital identities, cybersecurity, as well as artificial intelligence. Discussions were also held on future joint research cooperation, including in semiconductors and quantum, as well as on the ongoing work towards interoperability of digital identity solutions. The Dialogue is a crucial platform for taking stock of achievements and setting the way forward for future cooperation under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership.

The EU-Japan Digital Partnership was launched in 2022 to advance cooperation on digital to foster innovation, competitiveness and a human-centric digital transformation based on common values. It is a flexible cooperation instrument that includes dialogue and exchange of information between the EU and Japan. It delivers concrete outcomes in the area of semiconductors, 5G/6G, AI, online platforms, digital identities, data governance, quantum, cybersecurity and connectivity.

Source: European Commission / Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

➔ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/8th-eu-japan-digital-policy-dialogue-advancing-digital-partnership>
➔ https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2025/0402_001.html

2ND EU-JAPAN FOREIGN MINISTERIAL STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union/Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Takeshi Iwaya held the second EU-Japan Strategic Dialogue on 4 April 2025 in Brussels.

During the Dialogue, High Representative Kallas and Foreign Minister Iwaya discussed EU-Japan bilateral relations, with special regard to deepening cooperation under the EU-Japan Security and Defence Partnership, concluded in November 2024. Amid increasing and multi-layered security challenges, the Partnership frames and enhances bilateral cooperation and dialogue on key areas of mutual interest, including cyber issues, maritime security, space security, fight against foreign information manipulations and interference.

During their discussions, High Representative Kallas and Foreign Minister Iwaya reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to the rules-based international order, peace, stability and prosperity

worldwide, grounded in shared values and common interests. They highlighted the importance of close collaboration on regional and global security, with particular focus on the interconnected security environments of Europe and the Indo-Pacific. [...]

The High Representative and the Foreign Minister agreed on the need for maintaining close G7 coordination and unity on key global and regional foreign policy priorities, as the international community in its entirety faces geopolitical tensions and major challenges to the rule of law.

The whole text is available online.

Source: European Commission

➡ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/japan-high-representativevice-president-kallas-holds-second-eu-japan-strategic-dialogue-foreign_en

EU AND JAPAN PARTNERSHIP REMAINS STRONG AS WORLD EXPO 2025 OPENS IN OSAKA

As the world converges in Osaka for the 2025 World Expo, six months of exciting events and activities will unfold around initiatives presented by 150 countries and 25 international organisations.

These exhibits will explore topics such as the natural and physical world, the value of diversity in building cohesive future societies and the possibilities offered by new science and technologies.

The EU at this Expo presents among its activities a cultural programme encompassing a wide range of artistic categories and forms, including both classic and contemporary expression, tradition and technology.

This includes performing arts, such as dance and music, animation film, visual arts, architecture, design and fashion, activities for children and youth. A unique opportunity to foster intercultural dialogue, bridging cultural and creative diversity through the universal language of culture.

The European Union will be present and will have a dedicated pavilion based on the central theme of 'Nurturing Tomorrow', highlighting the strong political, economic, and sociocultural ties that the EU shares with Japan.

Both the EU and Japan remain committed to a multilateral and rules-based global order having the UN at its core, and to defending joint values and principles such as the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, open markets, free and fair trade.



Europa is the official mascot of the European Union at Expo 2025 Osaka. Europa embodies the EU's spirit, values, and vision for the future as a symbol of unity, freedoms, creativity, and sustainability. Europa takes her name from a princess in Greek mythology who gave her name to the continent of Europe, her colours from the EU flag, and her style cues from Japan.

The dedicated [EU at World Expos website](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-and-japan-partnership-remains-strong-world-expo-2025-opens-osaka_en) contains the latest information about the EU Pavilion at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

Source: Delegation of the European Union to Japan

➡ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-and-japan-partnership-remains-strong-world-expo-2025-opens-osaka_en



WORLD EXPO 2025 IN OSAKA

The World Expo is held in Osaka until 13 October 2025, with the participation of about 160 countries and 9 international organizations. The organizers expect to welcome over 28 million visitors, with 80% of them from Japan and the East Asian region. Below is an overview of the 24 participating EU Member States' pavilions plus the ones from the European Union and Japan. ➡ <https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union is committed to fostering a better future through sustainability, connectivity, inclusivity, and security. The EU Pavilion, themed "Nurturing Tomorrow," showcases initiatives that bring these commitments to life.

The EU and Japan share a strong partnership, working together to promote peace, democracy, and solutions to global challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, and food security. The Pavilion highlights these collaborations, emphasising the deep political, economic, and cultural ties between the EU and Japan.

➡ https://eu-at-world-expos.europa.eu/index_en

JAPAN

The theme of the Japan Pavilion is "Between Lives". With its circular structure, the pavilion embodies the cycle of life. It is not just us. When an animal or plant, a thing, even a whole society, nears the end of its role, part of it is carried on, transforming, taking on a new role. We all live through these connections.

Take a look at this space between lives and you'll see that the world is made up of countless, tiny cyclical loops.

A full life is one in which all life is respected, its meaning and value understood. A full life is lived as part of the connections between lives. The relationship to nature and aesthetic sensibility that has flourished in this country is one key to achieving this.

What will you find, what will you think, in that cycle between lives with no beginning and no end? What will you carry on to the next?

➡ <https://2025-japan-pavilion.go.jp/en>

AUSTRIA

"Composing the Future" is the Austrian Pavilion theme, using music to create a fascinating future composition together with its guests. In this way, the diversity and performance of Austrian society, business, science, art, and culture are convincingly staged, and ideas and concepts are presented that contribute to a responsible and sustainable future development.

➡ <https://www.expoaustria.at/en/pavilion/>

BELGIUM

"Human Regeneration", the Belgian pavilion tells a story of prevention, healing and rebuilding. Belgium offers the ultimate ecosystem for vaccines: from pioneering inventions to advanced development, efficient production and global distribution. Belgium is more than the sum of its parts. Its regions excel in life-saving technologies and are together at the top of the life sciences industry.

➡ <https://belexpo.be/en/home>

BULGARIA

Welcome to the Bulgarian Pavilion! A space where people can learn to evolve with nature to save lives and shape a sustainable world. An environment that reflects history and tradition highlights solutions and reveals our future.

➡ <https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/official-participant/bulgaria/>

CROATIA

The Croatian pavilion is an immersive environment that communicates the diversity of Croatia's currently existing natural climates. By replicating real-time temperatures from 45 meteorological stations, it offers a condensed sensory experience of the country's climatic regions.

➡ <https://www.expo.hr/en/>

CZECHIA

With the theme "Talent and Creativity for Life", the Czech pavilion is a fusion of modern and traditional technologies, using modern CLT panels while the facade is covered by artistic Bohemian Crystal. The circular visitors' journey leads the visitors from the ground to the roof through an interactive exhibition featuring Czechia as a creative nation with global impact.

➡ <https://expo2025czechia.com/en/>

DENMARK, FINLAND, SWEDEN

The Nordic Circle brings together the five Nordic nations - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden - to forge new connections and turn isolated ideas into grand innovations. Today's most complex societal challenges call for collaborative action to achieve impactful results. The joint pavilion is an opportunity for the world to join in on the Nordic model of trust, sustainability, and innovation.

➡ <https://thenordics-exposaka.com/en>

FRANCE

The Pavilion offers a new vision of the future and carries a powerful message about the meaning of life through its most beautiful form: Love. The French Pavilion epitomizes a bold, ambitious, and innovative vision of cultural, scientific, social, and industrial issues. It celebrates the French model of innovation that combines competitiveness and sustainable development.

➡ <https://www.franceosaka2025.fr/en>

GERMANY

The theme of the pavilion is Circular Economy. The German Pavilion is itself an exhibit for circular and sustainable construction. It brings together architecture, landscape, and exhibition into a whole and, through a unique visitor experience, showcases pathways to a circular future.

➡ <https://expo2025germany.de/startseite-en/>

HUNGARY

The artistic concept of the Hungarian Pavilion identifies the achievement of a "Happy Future" in the preservation and continuation of natural and cultural heritage. The close relationship between humans and nature plays a significant role in the value systems of both Japanese and Hungarian nations, so the Pavilion's exhibition is built on a strong nature-centric experience.

➡ <https://expo2025.hu/en/hungarian-pavilion/>

IRELAND

Ireland's theme for the Expo is "Creativity Connects People". Through this theme, the pavilion shows how imagination is central to all human progress and to empowering the young and the old to live full and productive lives. The design of the Pavilion is based on the triskele; an ancient Celtic motif used in Irish art and craft since the Stone Age.

➡ <https://www.ireland.ie/en/expo/>

ITALY

"Art Regenerates Life" is the theme of the Italian Pavilion, presenting "the state of the art" of the country, and introducing Japan to all its excellences, both renowned and lesser known, to be highlighted, from design to agrifood, from fashion to technology, from science to industry.

➡ <https://www.italyexpo2025osaka.it/en>

LATVIA, LITHUANIA

The Baltics Pavilion invites visitors to connect with two Baltic nations - Latvia and Lithuania - and discover the shared threads that bind people across religion, race, and culture. We all are part of one precious planet, and with that comes both the privilege and responsibility to safeguard it for generations to come.

➡ <https://baltics2025expo.com/>

LUXEMBOURG

The Luxembourg Pavilion was designed according to the principles of circularity. It was "designed for disassembly", with a focus on refusing and reducing its building components. Together with compelling lighting and an intriguing sound, visitors can experience the Luxembourg Heartbeat, immerse themselves, and become truly part of the experience.

➡ <https://expopavilion.lu/>

MALTA

By celebrating Malta's cultural heritage while addressing the opportunities of the 21st century, the pavilion presents a vision of resilience and creativity deeply rooted in the island's rich past.

➡ <https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/official-participant/malta/>

NETHERLANDS

"Common Ground" is the theme of the Netherlands participation. The Pavilion aims to be an open space where people can meet, learn from each other, and inspire one another. A place where they can unite their energy to create healthy and happy societies.

➡ <https://nlplatform.com/osaka-expo-japan>

POLAND

Poland is presented as a country, the main resource of which are its creative people. The "gene of creativity", passed down from generation to generation, allows Polish people to act for a better future, supports flexibility in the face of unexpected global changes, and is a force that generates new concepts for social and technological solutions.

➡ <https://expo.gov.pl/en/>

PORTUGAL

The theme of the Portugal Pavilion is "Ocean, The Blue Dialogue", which showcases innovative solutions that combine marine ecosystem conservation with sustainable economic growth, positioning the country as a global leader in sustainability and environmental preservation.

➡ <https://portugalexpo2025.pt/en/>

ROMANIA

The Pavilion theme is "Romania, Land of Tomorrow". Part of a broader strategy to strengthen the Romania-Japan Strategic Partnership, the Pavilion reflects the country's focus on economy, education, energy, and innovation.

➡ <https://www.romaniaexpo2025.ro/en/concept/>

SLOVAKIA

The Slovakian Pavilion presents the country's contribution to global sustainability, to highlight Slovakia's uniqueness from the perspective of a changing environment and to introduce Slovakia to visitors not only as an attractive destination for tourism and business, but also as a home of smart, warm-hearted and talented people.

➡ <https://slovakiaexpo.sk/en/home-page>

SLOVENIA

The Slovenian Pavilion emphasizes the sustainable, modern, and creative side of Slovenian national character. The Pavilion addresses the global public with stories that speak of the unique intertwining of pristine nature, knowledge, innovation, and a pioneering economy.

➡ <https://www.exposlovenia.eu/en>

SPAIN

Spain's participation represents a unique opportunity to showcase the innovation, creativity, and sustainability that characterize the country. With the theme "The Kuroshio Current", the Spanish Pavilion seeks to connect with visitors through an immersive experience that celebrates the relationship between Spain and the sea.

➡ <https://www.accioncultural.es/en/ExpoSpain2025>

ICCJ: BUILDING ITALIAN-JAPANESE BRIDGES AT EXPO 2025

At Expo 2025 Osaka, the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ICCJ) connects Italian regional excellence with the Japanese market. Throughout the 6 months of the event, ICCJ provides support services to Italian regions, helping them showcase their offerings effectively.

ICCJ coordinates press conferences, manages event logistics, and identifies relevant Japanese stakeholders -journalists, buyers, companies, and distributors- who can help promote Italy and develop business relationships.

ICCJ provides qualified hostesses and interpreters to facilitate communication, ensuring Italian presentations are accessible to Japanese audiences. The ICCJ media team offers photography and videography services, documenting each regional showcase and sharing these materials through channels including press releases, magazine features, radio appearances, and influencer partnerships. The case of the Marche Region illustrates this approach perfectly. ICCJ recently coordinated their press conference while supporting a fashion show highlighting the region's textile excellence and cooking demonstrations that showcased Marche's culinary traditions.



For Tuscany, ICCJ is developing advertising campaigns, engaging influencers, and securing radio appearances to build awareness ahead of their showcase in July. While Expo 2025 has a defined duration, the connections established during this period create channels for cultural exchange and business development. ICCJ's activities help turn temporary exhibitions into opportunities for ongoing relationships between Italian regions and the Japanese market.

The Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan continues its work as a cultural and commercial intermediary, helping Italy's regional products and services find recognition in Japan beyond the Expo period.

Source: ICCJ ➡ <https://www.italyexpo2025osaka.it/en>

VITAGORA AT THE EXPO 2025 OSAKA

French and Japanese converge under the theme of sustainable food systems.

The French agri & food innovation cluster Vitagora conducted an event inside the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

A delegation composed of representatives from the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, Dijon Métropole, and other entities from the renowned gastronomic area of Burgundy as well as numerous companies from the Vitagora network came to discover Japan for a period of 6 days.

The main event on 17 April was held inside the French Pavilion and consisted of a day of exchanges under the theme of "Territories and food: aiming for more sustainable production and consumption methods", with the participation of Japanese partners with whom Vitagora had been nurturing relationships for decades.



The day's schedule featured roundtables highlighting sustainable practices and innovation from both countries and networking opportunities. It was also an opportunity to strengthen bonds between Dijon Métropole and Kumamoto prefecture, which concluded an agreement in 2023 on several subjects, including the academic & industrial collaboration on agriculture and food themes. A new event is expected this time in Kumamoto, during the week of 20 October. Japanese food companies are invited to meet Vitagora in Kumamoto!

Source: Vitagora ➡ <https://www.vitagora.com>

CO-CREATING THE FUTURE: LUXEMBOURG AND JAPAN AT EXPO 2025 OSAKA

Already the Luxembourg Pavilion itself — “designed for disassembly” and “circular by design”— was developed through a partnership between companies from Luxembourg and Japan, with the architects being the Luxembourg-based firm STDM and Japan’s MIKAN. Furthermore, the scenography was shaped through co-creation.

The scenographers’ jangled nerves, together with DNP Dai Nippon Printing, brought the Pavilion’s three acts to life by crafting vivid scenes that introduce visitors to the Grand Duchy. Under the Pavilion’s guiding theme, “Doki Doki – The Luxembourg Heartbeat,” visitors encounter the diversity of Luxembourg’s society, its entrepreneurial spirit, and its culture of innovation, as well as the natural beauty of the country.

Japanese companies operating in or from Luxembourg are also part of the story being told in Act 2. Among these is ispace, a Japanese lunar exploration firm with a subsidiary in Luxembourg. As part of the HAKUTO-R Mission 2 RESILIENCE, the Luxembourg-based team designed, manufactured, and assembled a Lunar Micro Rover named TENACIOUS, which was then integrated into the lander in Japan. This collaboration symbolizes the forward-looking spirit of cooperation and

co-creation between Luxembourg and Japan.

Luxembourg has also emerged as a key international center for Parkinson’s research, including a long-standing scientific partnership with Japan. The collaboration between Juntendo Medical School, the RIKEN IMS Center, and the Luxembourg National Centre of Excellence in Research on Parkinson’s Disease has already led to a major breakthrough: a new blood test that may enable earlier and more accurate diagnosis of Parkinson’s and related neurological disorders.

Beyond the permanent exhibition, the Luxembourg Pavilion also hosts a variety of cultural and business-related events. For example, on Luxembourg National Day, 30 May, Luxembourgish artists Francesco Tristano, Pascal Schumacher, and Jill Crovisier shared the stage with Japanese dancer Maika Fuji to perform “Echoes of Tomorrow”.



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Source: LGIE Luxembourg@Expo2025Osaka ➡ <https://expopavilion.lu>

FUTUROTETILES EXHIBITION IN OSAKA

Textile made from oysters and cake molds: natural fibers, upcycling, know-how, and innovation at the heart of the Futurotextiles 7 exhibition, in Nagai Park, Osaka.

Did you know that textiles can be made from banana, pineapple, coffee, oyster shells, fish scales, and baobab bark? That cake molds and recycled wires can be reused to make outfits? That Japanese textile expertise in wisteria and mother-of-pearl is inspiring today’s designers to create the clothes of tomorrow? Located in the Botanical Garden of Osaka’s Nagai Park, the Futurotextiles 7 exhibition (the 7th major edition of an exhibition conceived by the Lille3000 cultural association in 2006) offers visitors the opportunity to discover the latest creations, prototypes, and “savoir-faire” in textiles and fashion, particularly from the Lille European metropolis, the Hauts-de-France region



and Europe, combining them with Japanese textile traditions and innovations.

Shining a light on new, more responsible fibers as well as the recent development of sustainable practices in the fashion industry, the exhibition takes place in Osaka during Expo 2025, in a vibrant place located in the heart of the city. In just a month, 200,000 visitors were welcomed into the building. Curated by Caroline David (lille3000) and with the collaboration of Yanmar Holdings Co. Ltd., the exhibition is supported by the Lille European Metropolis, the Hauts-de-France region, and the Institut Français. To discover by 31 July.

Source: lille3000 ➡ <https://futuortextiles.fr>

MEET ITALY IN JAPAN

June and July will be a busy period for the Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan supporting various Italian delegations attending five local trade fairs covering lifestyle, healthcare, fashion, and food sectors.

ITALY AT INTERIOR LIFESTYLE 2025

Showcase for Italian interior design, home accessories, and building materials' trends.

Interior Lifestyle 2025 (18-20 June, Tokyo Big Sight) is the leading international trade fair dedicated to the interior design industry in Japan. It gathers around 500 domestic/overseas exhibitors.

The Italian Pavilion (180 sqm) - one of the largest among National Pavilions - will host 16 Italian manufacturers of furniture, interior accessories/household goods, and design building materials.

The Talk "Design for a Better Life: Synergy between Italy and Japan", by the celebrated Japanese designers Setsu & Shinobu ITO, will be held at the "Lifestyle Salon" on 19 June.

Source: Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan

➡ <https://ice-tokyo.or.jp>



MODA ITALIA 2026 SPRING/SUMMER COLLECTIONS

Moda Italia, the largest Italian fashion trade exhibition in Japan, will be held on 9-11 July 2025 at Bellesalle Shibuya Garden in Tokyo.

Over 110 Italian exhibitors will be presenting their collections for Spring/Summer 2026.

A wide range of products is going to be displayed. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the producers of apparel, knitwear, fashion accessories, bags/leather goods, and shoes.

Entry is reserved for buyers and the press only. The organizers are expecting more than 2000 visitors.

Source: Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan

➡ <https://modaitalia.ice-tokyo.or.jp>

ITALIAN COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN JAPAN HEALTH, TRADE FAIR IN OSAKA

The Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan will coordinate a delegation of 17 Italian companies from the Life Sciences sector at Japan Health 2025, a brand-new international trade show dedicated to the medical and healthcare industries.

The inaugural edition of the fair will be held on 25–27 June 2025 at INTEX Osaka, coinciding with Expo Osaka 2025, during its themed week focusing on health and wellbeing.

The objective of Italy's participation is to foster new business opportunities and strengthen the export potential of Italian companies in the Life Sciences industry. Exhibitors from Italy will present their cutting-edge medical technologies, equipment, and services to the Japanese healthcare sector and broader Life Sciences community.

Japan, the fourth-largest medical device market globally and second in the world by number of hospitals, represents a strategic partner for Italian companies aiming to expand their presence in Asia.

The Life Sciences industry holds a strategic position in the Italian economy, characterized by innovation, high-quality production, and global competitiveness. The Italy Pavilion, covering approximately 430 square meters, will host the following Italian companies: ASA, Biomedical, Cimsystem, FOR.TEC. - Forniture Tecnologiche, Hiplaas, Human Brain Wave, INTA, PerfeTTO, Kontak, Major Prodotti Dentari, Medesy, Novamed, Pierrel, UNIDI, RI.MOS., RIC3D, WISE.

Source: Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan ➡ <https://ice-tokyo.or.jp/events/japan-health-2025>

THE ITALIAN PAVILION WILL HAVE A PROMINENT POSITION AT “FOODEX JAPAN IN KANSAI” 2025

FOODEX JAPAN – the No.1 Professional Trade Show for Food & Beverage in the Asia-Pacific region – is held every year in March in Tokyo. On 23-25 July, the trade show will also be held in Osaka, the second largest city in Japan, as “FOODEX JAPAN in Kansai”.

Taking advantage of the great promotional and commercial appeal of the Expo 2025 in Osaka, which is held from 13 April to 13 October 2025, the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) - Tokyo Office will organize its first Italian collective at “FOODEX JAPAN in Kansai”. With an area of 400 square meters, the Italian Pavilion will be the largest national pavilion. Located in Hall 5 of Intex Osaka, it will host around 15 Italian Food companies presenting a great variety of products, among which are: extra virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar, anchovies etc.

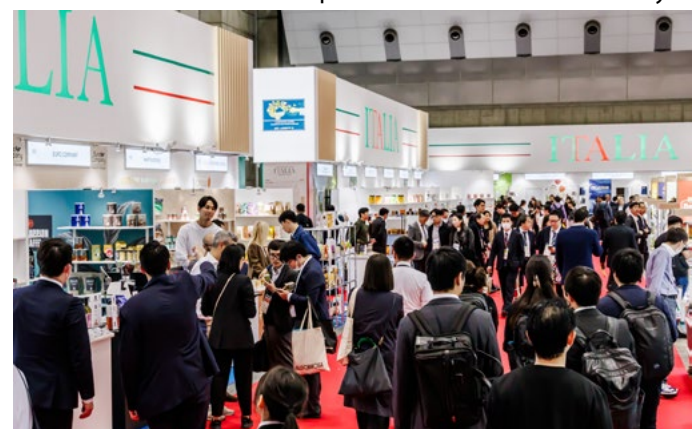
In a space nearby to the Food area will be held a workshop focusing on Italian Wines named “BORSA VINI”. The initiative aims to promote in a single showcase the Italian excellences in the wine and food sectors.

FOODEX JAPAN is a crucial platform for Italian food companies seeking expansion in the Asia-Pacific market.

In 2024, Italian food and beverage imports into Japan surged by +14%, reaching JPY173.3 billion, with Italy holding a 1.6% market share. This trend highlights the increasing demand for high-quality Italian products among Japanese consumers.



Italian pavilion at Foodex 2025 in Tokyo



Source: Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan

➡ <https://ice-tokyo.or.jp>

BORSA VINI AT FOODEX JAPAN IN KANSAI 2025

BORSA VINI is one of the annual events organized by the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) – Tokyo Office. The workshop includes wine tastings and free B2B meetings between Italian wineries and Japanese professional visitors.

Since this year the Expo 2025 is taking place in Osaka, this edition of BORSA VINI will also be held in that city for three days (23-25 July) as part of “FOODEX JAPAN in Kansai”.

Around 40 Italian companies will participate to present over 100 kinds of Italian wines.

In cooperation with the “FOODEX JAPAN in Kansai” ‘s organizers, the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) - Tokyo Office will organize various masterclasses focused on the wines presented by the Italian exhibitors.

The event will provide an opportunity for Japanese industry professionals and Italian producers to exchange the latest information on Italian products and establish direct contacts.

In 2024, Italian food and beverage imports into Japan surged by +14%, reaching JPY173.3 billion, with Italy holding a 1.6% market share. This trend highlights the increasing demand for high-quality Italian products among Japanese consumers.



2024 edition

Source: Trade Promotion Section of the Italian Embassy in Japan

➡ <https://ice-tokyo.or.jp>

GLOBAL ONE-STOP CENTER SUPPORTING FINANCE MARKET ENTRY IN OSAKA

The Osaka Global Finance One-Stop Support Center is an initiative by Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City, the Financial Services Agency and 40 public-private partners. It is a dedicated service for overseas financial institutions seeking to establish operations in Osaka.

The Center provides comprehensive guidance across the following key areas:

- Company incorporation & licensing: Expert advice on legal structures and applications for banking, securities and other financial service licenses under Japan's national regulatory sandbox.
- Incentives & tax preferences: Details on the June 2024 Special Zone designation, which offers zero corporate inhabitant and enterprise taxes for up to 10 years for companies establishing a presence in Osaka City by fiscal year 2025, plus subsidies for base establishment.

- Practical living & business support: Assistance with visa procedures, office sourcing, introductions to local legal and accounting firms, and matchmaking with venture capitalists and financial institutions.

By streamlining the market-entry process and reducing administrative hurdles, the Center aims to position Osaka as Asia's next major financial hub, strengthening ties between EU-Japan stakeholders and promoting diverse financing channels.

Contact & Further Information: Osaka Global Finance One-Stop Support Center, +81 (0)6-6136-3524,

f-onestop@global-financial-city-osaka.jp

Source: Pasona Group ➡ <https://global-financial-city-osaka.jp/en/onestop>

ICCJ KANSAI DESK

Over the past few years, the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ICCJ) has been working to expand its membership base and activities in other areas of Japan.

As a matter of fact, in the last three years, the ICCJ organized several meetings and events in Aichi and Kansai, and the Nagoya and Osaka Gala Dinner and Concerts have become fixed annual appointments.

Also, given the fact that the organization will be thoroughly and actively involved in Expo 2025, the Chamber has finally decided to open a Desk in Kansai. ICCJ hopes that this will represent an extra opportunity to further enhance business relationships with the Kansai region.

Source: ICCJ ➡ <https://iccj.or.jp/opening-of-the-iccj-kansai-desk>

IVS2025: JAPAN'S PREMIER GLOBAL STARTUP CONFERENCE IN KYOTO

2-4 JULY 2025, KYOTO, JAPAN

IVS2025, one of Japan's largest startup conferences, will take place on 2-4 July at the Kyoto International Exhibition Hall (Miyako Messe).



This year's theme, "Reshape Japan with Global Minds," reflects a growing focus on global collaboration. IVS2025 will feature expanded English-language programming through IVS Global, welcoming entrepreneurs, investors, and ecosystem leaders from around the world. The event will also showcase specialized zones focused on AI, Entertainment, and Deep Tech, highlighting Japan's most cutting-edge industries.

IVS LAUNCHPAD is one of Japan's largest pitch competitions, known as a launchpad for the next generation of entrepreneurs. Chosen from hundreds of applicants, they compete for the top spot—and the attention of key decision-makers.

Recognizing its international significance, IVS2025 has been certified as an official Theme Weeks Connect Programme of Expo 2025.

This year, the organizers expect over 12,000 attendees (including 40% startups and 15% investors) and anticipate over 300 side events taking place before and after the main conference.

Source: Kyoto City - Industry and Tourism Bureau Business Attraction Promotion Office

➡ <https://www.ivs.events>

NEWS FROM THE FINESTJAPAN PROJECT

FINESTJAPAN project presents Finnish and Estonian Green technology SMEs to Japan. On its first mission to Japan, the FINESTJAPAN project took part in the SusHiTech business expo in Tokyo at the beginning of May.



The delegation included two companies from Estonia: **TUGE Energia OÜ**, **R8 Technologies**, and two companies from Finland: **nollaE Oy** and **Helsieni Oy**, along with the project managers from Green Net Finland and Tehnopol Science and Business Park (Estonia). The products of the companies cover energy efficiency of buildings, wind power and circular economy solutions for cities.

The primary goal of the mission was to connect the FINESTJAPAN companies with interested business partners and explore new collaboration opportunities in Japan. SusHiTech proved to be an excellent platform for this purpose, and hopefully, another mission can be organized next year. In addition to the many Japanese corporations and banks attending the event, there were also prefectures and cities, and even foreign

regions. FINESTJAPAN was assisted by local business experts in organizing separate meetings for the companies.

The FINESTJAPAN green technology project is planning its next Japan mission to the Osaka region on 20-23 October 2025. The organizers are inviting more companies from Finland and Estonia to participate in the mission and they warmly welcome interested companies and partners in Japan to meet them. A more detailed will soon be available at the project website. Meanwhile, do not hesitate to contact FINESTJAPAN project managers Ilkka Aaltio, ilkka.aaltio@gnf.fi in Finland, and Anu Puusaag anu.puusaag@tehnopol.ee in Estonia.

Source: Green Net Finland → <https://centralbaltic.eu/project/finestjapan>

A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE NETHERLANDS

On 10-12 February 2025, the Innovation & Inspiration Tour Semicon Equipment took place in Brabant, the Netherlands. This event strengthened the collaboration between the Japanese and Dutch semiconductor industries.



Organized by the Brabant Development Agency (BOM) in collaboration with the Semiconductor Equipment Association of Japan (SEAJ) and the Dutch Embassy in Tokyo, this tour showcased the power of international cooperation and technological advancement. The tour included visits to key industry players such as ASML, VDL ETG, DEMCON, Prodrive, Sioux, Settels Savenije, Hittech KWME and NTS, highlighting innovation, outsourced design and engineering, and the broader deeptech ecosystem. The event concluded with a networking reception at the High Tech Campus Eindhoven, fostering new connections and strengthening existing ones.

The Innovation & Inspiration Tour Semicon Equipment was a journey of discovery, collaboration, and inspiration. It laid the groundwork for future partnerships between Japanese and Dutch companies, promising a future of shared innovation and technological breakthroughs. The tour provided invaluable insights, fostered mutual understanding, and opened doors to new collaborative opportunities.

In order to keep momentum, the Dutch high-tech industry visited the World Expo in Osaka with a large delegation of companies, institutes and governmental organizations.

Besides visiting leading Japanese high-tech counterparts, the Netherlands organized and hosted the High Tech Digital Experience (HTDX) conference during the World Expo, which attracted a large audience. During this conference, Dutch companies presented themselves and in the breakout sessions, crossover themes were discussed with the participation of both Japanese and Dutch partners. This provided new and valuable insights and identified more common ground to strengthen the collaboration.

These and future events contribute to and build on 425 years of bilateral relations between Japan and the Netherlands.

Source: BOM

→ <https://www.bom.nl/actueel/innovation-inspiration-tour-semicon-equipment-a-successful-collaboration-between-japan-and-the-netherlands>

TESTBED HELSINKI: A SMART CITY PILOT PROJECT FOR CLIMATE TECH

The cities of Tokyo and Helsinki actively work towards improving sustainable development and urban well-being. Both support the growth and demonstration of startups in the smart city field, which led to Tokyo and the City of Helsinki implementing a joint project.



In the project, five startup companies from Tokyo visited Helsinki as part of a city delegation and gained a deeper understanding of Helsinki's innovation ecosystem and its piloting platform, Testbed Helsinki. One of the startups was selected to pilot their unique power-generating solution in Helsinki. This article will share information about the collaboration between Tokyo and Helsinki and about startup piloting opportunities in the capital of Finland.

Source: Helsinki Partners ➡ <https://note.com/helsinkipartners/n/n843ca0e88619>

CITY OF LAPPEENRANTA GOES TO JAPAN

Strengthening regional RDI collaboration as part of international engagement.

Despite the significant differences between Japan and Finland in terms of population size and economic scale, the two countries share many similarities — especially in values, mindset, and long-term societal challenges. In spring 2025, the City of Lappeenranta (represented by Mr. Ding Ma, Director of Economic Development) and LAB University of Applied Sciences (represented by President Mr. Turo Kilpeläinen) visited Tokyo and Kyoto to explore and deepen regional research, development and innovation (RDI) collaboration.

The visit reinforced the view that both countries could benefit from more structured models for cooperation between the public and private sectors in fostering RDI and growth entrepreneurship. There were also valuable insights gained into the role of higher education institutions in regional development and their vision for the future. These are lessons that we hope to build upon in future cooperation — and we warmly encourage other EU regions to get involved.

Japan and Finland are among the world's fastest-aging societies. In Japan, instead of pursuing strong internationalization, policy efforts are currently focused on adjusting public services and expenditures in line with demographic decline. Technological advancement and operational efficiency are seen as key solutions to the social challenges caused by population aging. At the same time, Japan's government has committed to boosting entrepreneurship and innovation

through strategic funding and guidance — with much of the activity being organized on the regional level.

Currently, many Japanese regions and local actors are initiating innovation activities independently. A phase of consolidation is expected to follow, potentially leading to closer integration or even mergers among local stakeholders. The role of privately operated science parks in building regional innovation ecosystems is becoming increasingly important. One example is Kyoto Science Park, which serves as a collaborative platform connecting local government, universities, and early-stage companies.

In Finland, a key response to the aging population has been to facilitate work-based immigration and make permit processes more efficient for international talent. At LAB University of Applied Sciences, for example, students come from over 90 different nationalities. Attracting international students and professionals is a growing trend nationwide. Developing growth entrepreneurship is also a key focus area in Finland. In Lappeenranta, a shared innovation ecosystem involving the city, universities, and the business sector has been created to provide a seamless service chain from research to commercialization. Within this ecosystem, building international partnerships — for instance, with Japanese universities and corporate venture units — has emerged as a promising area for future development.



There are extensive opportunities for cooperation between Finnish higher education institutions and Japan's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. However, language remains a notable barrier if collaboration is to deepen beyond the current level. Here, the support of Finland's Embassy in Tokyo, the Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and the EU-Japan Centre will be essential.

Finland enjoys a highly positive reputation in Japan. The Slush startup event is particularly well known among innovation and entrepreneurship communities. Leveraging this image — alongside the cultural appeal of Finnish icons like the Moomins and the sauna — can help promote mutual engagement and pave the way for long-term collaboration.

Source: City of Lappeenranta

EUROPEAN JAPAN EXPERTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

10-12 SEPTEMBER 2025, NAGANO, JAPAN

EJEA annual conference will be held in person at Shinshu University in Nagano, Japan with the title: “How to Inspire Young People in Japan and Europe (a) to Address Science-based Solutions for Multiple Local and Global Challenges & (b) to Design Future Societies for Living in Harmony?!”

The outline of the conference is designed to generate conclusions, recommendations and future directions for:

- Sustaining Engagement: Develop strategies to ensure short-term as well as long-term young participation.
- Scaling Locally and Globally: Expand projects and initiatives beyond Japan and Europe for local and global movements.
- Call to Action: Encourage support from governments, academia, and businesses for initiatives led by the young generation.

Target Groups

Individual experts and citizens, decision-makers and opinion leaders from related organizations, companies, universities, research institutes, as well as public administration and governments from Japan and Europe. Through this process, a platform of knowledge and expertise will be created.

Registration closes on 15 July 2025

Source: EJEA

➡ <https://ejea.eu/ejea-conference-2025>

SCALING TO JAPAN: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR EUROPEAN INNOVATION AND GROWTH

The EIT Global Outreach's latest report meets the growing demand for practical tools and strategic insights to help European innovators navigate Japan's unique ecosystem and accelerate global growth.



Why Japan? Japan is more than an economic powerhouse - it's a global leader in deep-tech, manufacturing, robotics, healthcare, and sustainability. For European innovators, it offers unique opportunities for investment, strategic partnerships, and expansion into the broader Asian market.

What's inside?

- In-depth analysis of Japan's innovation landscape from a European perspective.
- Sector-focused insights: Advanced Manufacturing, Robotics, Healthcare, GreenTech & AgriTech.
- Strategic guidance on investment, partnerships, and market entry with major corporations, government organisations, and Japan's influential trading houses (Sogo Shosha).
- Cultural and business insights to navigate Japan's unique business environment.
- Regional innovation hotspots: Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Gunma, and more.
- Actionable recommendations for European startups, corporates, investors, and policymakers.

Available on EIT website.

Source: European Institute of Innovation and Technology – EIT ➡ <https://go-eit.eu/library/>

CANON FOUNDATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Annually, the Canon Foundation in Europe grants up to 15 Fellowships to highly qualified European and Japanese researchers.

European Fellows are expected to pursue a period of research in Japan whereas Japanese Fellows are expected to do their research in Europe. The fellowships are for a minimum period of three months up to maximum of one year and support all fields of research.

Application deadline: 15 September 2025



Source: Canon Foundation in Europe ➡ <https://www.canonfoundation.org/programmes/research-fellowships>

EU-JAPAN WORKSHOP ON AI'S IMPACT ON WORK AND COMPETITIVENESS

24 JUNE 2025, HYBRID FORMAT, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

A workshop on AI's Impact on the Workplace and Employment and as a Driver for Growth and Competitiveness is taking place on Tuesday, 24 June from 10:30 to 13:00 CET (17:30 - 20:00 Japan) at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels (VMA22) and online.

The 2025 EU-Japan Workshop will explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the workplace and driving economic competitiveness. This hybrid event will bring together EU and Japanese stakeholders to discuss AI's role in transforming job roles, promoting innovation, and raising ethical and policy challenges. It will also focus on how AI can support sustainable and inclusive growth in both regions.

Speakers will include representatives from the European Parliament and Commission, EU social partners, the Japanese business community, and academia. A technical expert in trade and the digital economy will moderate the sessions.

This event is open to members of the EU Domestic Advisory Group (DAG), as well as civil society representatives, business and labour stakeholders, researchers, and policy makers from both the EU and Japan.

It is organized in the framework of the **EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**, and in particular its Trade and Sustainable Development chapter, as part of the **EU Domestic Advisory Group's (EU DAG)** meeting with its Japanese counterparts.

Source: European Economic Social Committee

➡ <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/eu-japan-dag-2025-workshop-artificial-intelligences-impact-workplace-and-driver-growth-and-competitiveness>

JAPAN-EU COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE HYDROGEN COMBUSTION TECHNOLOGIES

Based on the collaboration arrangement concluded on 3 June 2024 during the Japan-EU Hydrogen High-Level Business Forum, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership (CHP) and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) hosted a joint workshop focusing on hydrogen and ammonia combustion technologies on 26-27 March 2025 in Kobe, Japan.



The workshop brought together leading researchers, industry key players and policy makers from Japan and the EU to discuss the future of these innovative technologies and the role of Japan-EU collaboration in achieving the carbon-neutral target. It was the second workshop, followed by the first successful workshop focusing on electrolyser technologies, which took place during the European Hydrogen Week last November.

The workshop provided a unique and great opportunity for Japanese and European stakeholders to exchange ideas, share expertise, and discuss future collaborations. The workshop concluded with a consensus that the information exchange and innovative discussion should be continued to define and formulate concrete ideas for future collaboration to realize a larger deployment of hydrogen technologies in the near future. On the second day, the dedicated participants from Europe visited some technical sites to deepen their understanding of hydrogen combustion technologies and liquified hydrogen shipping near the Kobe area. This event was attended by over 50 participants from universities, industry stakeholders and government authorities, such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, the Delegation of the European Union to Japan and Hydrogen Europe Research. Source: NEDO

➡ https://www.nedo.go.jp/english/whatsnew_00325.html

➡ https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/media/news/advancing-hydrogen-combustion-technologies-through-international-collaboration-2025-03-26_en

JDZB'S GERMAN-JAPANESE YOUNG LEADERS FORUM

12 highly qualified German and Japanese Young Leaders from government, business and civil society organizations met in Tokyo in early 2025 to participate in the 16th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2024/25 on “Resilient Democracy. Young Leaders’ Responsibilities to Protect and Develop Liberal Democratic Societies in Turbulent Times.”



The Winter School was conceived, organized, and conducted by the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) in close cooperation with this year’s academic director, Prof. Dr. Axel Klein (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen).

The Young Leaders engaged with experts from various sectors to discuss external threats to the Japanese and German democracies the role of political communication and media, as well as challenges such as demographic change, artificial intelligence, and climate change. A key focus of the program was how to empower young people to run for office and enhance political diversity.

Field trips took them to the National Diet of Japan (with the honor to meet the Minister in charge of Economic Security, Minoru Kiuchi), the Foreign Correspondents Club Japan, and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Tokyo office to explore political and media landscapes.

Also, Professor Dr. Daniela Schwarzer (Member of Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung), the new German Co-Chair of the German-Japanese Forum, accompanied part of the program and shared her expertise with the participants. Another key highlight was the exchange with Momoko Nojo, Executive Director of No Youth No Japan and the Japan Youth Council representatives.

Honored with a reception at the German Embassy, the intensive week concluded with the Young Leaders Forum Alumni Association (YLFAA) Conference, which explored how design and technology can foster a diverse, inclusive and equitable democratic society.

The program was funded by Daido Life Insurance Company, the Mori Manufacturing Research and Technology Foundation, the Yamaoka Memorial Foundation, YANMAR Holdings Co., Ltd., and Yuasa M&B Co., Ltd.

Source: JDZB ➡ <https://jdzb.de/de/mediacenter/news/round-16th-german-japanese-young-leaders-forum-202425>

THE CENTRE FRANCO-JAPONAIS DE MANAGEMENT IS DEDICATED TO FUTURE EXECUTIVES

Founded in 1992 on the joint initiative of the French and Japanese governments, with the support of local authorities and the Bretagne Region, the CFJM has trained over 500 students during the past 33 years.



国立レンヌ第一大学大学院 日仏経営センター
CENTRE FRANCO-JAPONAIS DE MANAGEMENT



The CFJM is dedicated to future leaders not only in the Japanese language and culture, but also in business and cultural relations in Japan. The course includes a one-year expatriation to Japan, comprising 6 months at a university and 6 months of work experience in the country.

Since its creation, the CFJM has been a department of IGR-IAE Rennes, which is part of the University of Rennes. The CFJM takes on students in the Master's in Business Administration and Management (MAE) - Japanese Business Management course. Each cohort has a maximum of 10 to 15 students with a wide variety of backgrounds. Recruitment is open to students at the master's 1 level (bachelor's degree required) or directly at the master's 2 level (master's degree required) and is open

to candidates from any fields of specialization, and no level of Japanese is required to apply for this course.

Over the years, more than 100 former students have chosen to settle in Japan, leading to the creation of their alumni association “DOSOSEI”, which welcomes and supports the students during their second year of training in Japan.

In the past 5 years, during their first year of study in Rennes, the students have organised the ‘ROAZON-JAPAN’ festival, dedicated to promoting Japanese culture in Rennes. Open to all, the 5th edition welcomed more than 1,700 visitors last March. Since its beginning, the CFJM has been funded by a non-profit association of French and Japanese companies.

Source: CFJM ➡ <https://www.igr.univ-rennes.fr/fr/centre-franco-japonais-de-management/>

NANOCARBON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH STRONG INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

The NanoCarbon Annual Conference 2025, held from March 18 to 19 in Würzburg, marked a major milestone as it celebrated its 10th edition. The event brought together leading experts, innovators, and industry representatives from around the globe to explore the latest advancements in nanocarbon materials and applications.



Prof. Ata of Zeon Corporation serves as a member of the organizing committee and contributes to the planning and overall structure of the conference. The organization was honored to welcome international guests from Japan, whose participation highlighted the global relevance and reach of the conference. They presented their latest research, providing valuable insights and developments to the program. Zeon Corporation further demonstrated strong support and commitment to the growth of the nanocarbon community as a diamond sponsor. Resonac Corporation was awarded for excellence in research, winning second place in the poster competition.

"We are deeply honored to celebrate a decade of knowledge exchange and innovation at this year's conference," said Dr.-Ing Peter Grambow, the cluster manager. *"The continued presence and support of our Japanese partners underscore the long-standing and valued relationship we share. Their engagement plays a vital role in the success and international character of our event."* As the NanoCarbon Annual Conference continues to grow, it remains a key platform for fostering collaboration, sharing cutting-edge research, and shaping the future of nanocarbon technologies.

Source: Cluster Nanotechnologie - Nanoinitiative Bayern GmbH

➡ <https://nanoinitiative-bayern.de/gb/nanocarbon/nanocarbon-annual-conference>

WASEDA BRUSSELS OFFICE CONFERENCES BOOST EU-JAPAN COOPERATION IN CRITICAL RESEARCH AREAS

Building on the success of the 2024 WBO 6th Annual Conference Environmental Studies for Carbon Neutrality, Waseda Brussels Office recently organised several international researchers' fora on highly topical scientific and policy issues.

High-level researchers from leading scientific organisations and universities from 10 EU Member States, the UK, the US and Japan, as well as representatives from EU and Japanese governmental bodies (EC, ESA, Japanese Space Agency, Japanese Coast Guard), met in Brussels to boost cooperation in astrophysics, cultural studies, international criminal justice, and nuclear risks assessment and mitigation.

"Exploring the Early Universe: the Next Frontier"



This workshop presented groundbreaking results from the James Webb Space Telescope in the study of early galaxies formation. Looking forward, it introduced the GREX-PLUS space telescope's wide-field imaging surveys. This Japanese-led initiative is building international support with a view to launch this revolutionary instrument by the early 2030s. Representatives from, inter alia, the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics (UK), Kapteyn Astronomical Institute (DK), Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma (IT), Steward Observatory (US) and Waseda University discussed this project's challenges and its exciting scientific promises.

"Cooperation in criminal justice and anti-corruption, and Culture and politics in Japan and Europe"

These were the themes of the 2025 EU-Japan Forum. Organised by the ULB Centre for European Studies and WBO, the workshops addressed new collaboration opportunities in these key research areas. Recent developments, such as the USA's exit from the ICC and the shelving of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, until now the most powerful instrument to fight international corruption in the private sector, give added urgency for Japan and the EU to strengthen their cooperation - building on shared values and a rule-based approach to security, economic and trade issues.

"Lessons from Fukushima: Nuclear risks assessment and mitigation"

Organised in the context of the WBO-ULB-Kansai partnership, this seminar focused on the complex phenomena surrounding nuclear fission, in particular its effects on biology and health. The meeting was part of the multidisciplinary research effort launched following the 2011 Fukushima accident. EU and Japanese presenters discussed, amongst others, the biological effects of radiation using mathematical models. A key focus was the health impact of low-dose and low-dose-rate radiation, where the quantitative effects of radiation remain unclear and need further research.

Source: Waseda Brussels Office ➡ <https://www.waseda.jp/inst/brussels-office/en>

KYUSHU UNIVERSITY EU CENTRE: JMCOE-Q3 KICK-OFF SEMINAR “E-GOVERNANCE AND E-DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”

On 24 April 2025, the Jean Monnet CoE Kyushu, Third Stage (JMCoE-Q3) Kick-off Seminar titled “e-Governance and e-Democracy in the EU” was conducted by the Kyushu University EU Centre and supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Japan and the Fukuoka EU Association. It was held in a hybrid format at KU, in Japanese and English with consecutive interpretation, and also as an online event open to the general public.

This kick-off seminar was organized to commemorate the start of the JMCoE-Q3 project, to strengthen cooperation with EU-related and international organizations for the future development of the project, and to promote understanding of the aims, objectives, and significance of the project and the EU to the wider public.

The opening was addressed in-person by Prof. Kenji Iwata, Executive Vice President of KU and former Director of the KU EU Centre, and online by Mr Peter Fatelnig, Minister-Counsellor for Digital Economy Policy, Delegation of the European Union to Japan, in Tokyo.

This was followed by an address by Prof. Jiro Hasumi, Director of the KU EU Centre, and then the headline lecture “e-Governance and e-Democracy in the European Union” by Prof. David Ramiro Troitiño of Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia, who came to Japan under the Erasmus+ Mobility Agreement with KU EU Centre. In Estonia, where almost all administrative procedures are completed online, he discussed how further deepening from e-governance to e-democracy is underway in the EU, as well as issues related to AI and EU public policy.

During the Q&A session, questions from the audience were answered and discussions were deepened on EU public policy and other topics. The session concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Machiko Hachiya, Advisor to KU EU Centre. The seminar, which was conducted in a hybrid format, resulted in a successful kick-off with approximately 50 participants from all over Japan taking part.

The KU EU Centre first strengthened its expertise on EU matters while acting as the consortium leader of the EU Institute in Japan, Kyushu (EUIJ-Kyushu, 2011-2016), which was funded by the European Commission, during which it actively promoted EU-related education and research. In recognition of these achievements, the next round of funding was granted under the Jean Monnet CoE within the framework of Erasmus+, the funding programme for research and education of the EU, for a total of seven years in the first stage (2016-2019) and second stage (2020-2024). With contributions from academic and other stakeholders both in Japan and abroad, they continue to carry out fruitful research, education, and outreach activities related to the EU and Europe at large.



From left, Prof. Jiro Hasumi, Prof. David Troitiño, Prof. Machiko Hachiya, Prof. Kenji Iwata



While building on the achievements of previous activities, the Jean Monnet CoE Kyushu, Third Stage (JMCoE-Q3, Dec. 2024-Nov. 2027) aims to expand the substance of its research and education and contribute to the international community, further deepening its activities by establishing two core themes: “The EU and Environmental Issues” and “The EU and Civil Society”. This will link KU's long-standing accumulation of research and education on the EU and Europe with the urgent issues facing Europe and the world, which the EU has defined as priorities under Erasmus+, with the aim of creating a major international hub for EU research and education in Japan and East Asia as the only Jean Monnet CoE in Japan.

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

JAPANESE COMPANIES LOOKING FOR PARTNERS IN THE EU ➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/een/opportunities>



SERVICES OFFERED

Sector: environmental

Japanese company with cloud-based software platform for the analysis of water leakage risk assessment through satellite data
Profile ID: **BOJP20240404016**



SERVICES OFFERED

Sector: life science, pharma

Japan based IT venture is offering regulatory compliance support to life sciences and pharma industries
Profile ID: **BOJP20250318002**

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFERED

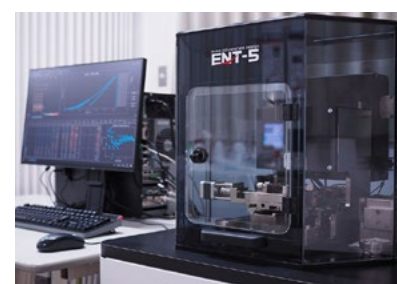
Sector: healthcare

Copper oxide coating technology from Japan against nosocomial infections
Profile ID: **TOJP20250303003**

REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTOR

Sector: nanotech, testing

A Japanese company offers a nano indentation tester under a commercial agreement.
Profile ID: **BOJP20250520003**



ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK EVENTS

B2B OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU AND JAPANESE SMES ➔ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/events>

FARMAFORUM 2024 BROKERAGE EVENT

18 September 2025, Madrid, Spain
Sector: pharma, biotech, cosmetics
Registration deadline: 17 Sept. 2025

Over a decade, Farmaforum has consolidated its position as the most relevant event of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Spain. In addition, it has broadened its scope by establishing synergies with the Biotechnology Industry and the Cosmetics Industry.

Fundación para el Conocimiento Madrid as coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network in Madrid, organizes the 10th edition of Farmaforum International brokerage event. The goal of this Brokerage Event, which will be held both online and onsite during the Congress in Madrid, is to exchange information between possible technological and business partners in pharmaceutical, cosmetic and laboratory industries.

➔ <https://www.b2match.com/e/farmaforum-partnering-day-2025>



IFIB

25-26 September 2025, Torino, Italy
Sector: biotech, environmental
Registration deadline: 24 Sept. 2025

Confindustria Piemonte is co-organising the 15th edition of IFIB - International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy, aimed at strengthening the bioeconomy network in the Euro-Mediterranean area and promoting partnerships.

The topic of the Forum is circular bioeconomy, with particular attention to industrial biotechnology as Key Enabling Technology. This year's edition will have a specific focus on biotech solutions, such as biofuels and bioplastics.

Five sessions of pre-arranged face-to-face bilateral meetings (B2B) between Start-ups, Companies, Universities, public and private Research Centres in the field of industrial biotechnology and bio economy will take place in Torino.

➔ <https://www.b2match.com/e/ifib-2025-matchmaking>

SCCON 2025 INTERNATIONAL MATCHMAKING

30 Sept – 2 Oct 2025, Berlin, Germany
Sector: pharma, biotech, cosmetics
Registration deadline: 2 October 2025

As part of the Smart Country Convention, Germany's leading event for the digitalization of the public sector, the local EEN partners are organizing various events. Participants can expect different sessions and a diverse mix of delegations, pitches, and matchmaking. The matchmaking event is specifically designed as a partnering platform, providing opportunities to meet partners for new business and research projects.

Representatives from companies, public authorities, and research institutions, who offer or seek innovative solutions, explore new collaborations, and search for suitable project partners, will have the great opportunity to discuss their ideas in pre-arranged meetings.

➔ <https://www.b2match.com/e/sccon-2025>



DATE/LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACTS
20 June 2025	WEBINAR Discover the Start-up Environment in Fukuoka City, Japan	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/start-ups-and-innovation-fukuoka-city-japan-webinar
26 June 2025	WEBINAR Invest in EU Hub - Opportunities for Japanese business and investors linked to the 'Industrial Action Plan for the European automotive sector'	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/eu-automotive-industrial-action-plan-opportunities-japanese-business-and-investors
24-26 Sept. 2025 Online 7 Oct. 2025 Osaka, Japan	MATCHMAKING EVENT EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Conference	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.b2match.com/e/bio-pharma-osaka-2025
6-10 October 2025 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Biotech Business Mission	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/biotech-mission
14-17 October 2025 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Digital Business Mission	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/digital-mission
20-24 Oct. 2025 Online 10-14 Nov. 2025 Tokyo, Japan	TRAINING MISSION Get Ready for Japan - second session Application deadline: 4 September 2025	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/get-ready-for-japan
20-23 January 2026 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Smart Factory & Robotics Business Mission Application deadline: 21 September 2025	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/smartfactory-robotics-mission
27-30 January 2026 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Space Business Mission Application deadline: TBC	EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/space-mission



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 : newsletter@eu-japan.eu

HEAD OFFICE IN JAPAN

Shirokane-Takanawa Station bldg 4F
1-27-6 Shirokane, Minato-ku
Tokyo 108-0072, Japan
T +81 3 6408 0281
inquiries@eu-japan.or.jp

OFFICE IN THE EU

Rue Marie de Bourgogne 52
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 2 282 00 40
office@eu-japan.eu



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www.eu-japan.eu



EU-Japan Centre
for Industrial Cooperation
一般財団法人日欧産業協力センター

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation was established in 1987 as a core organization to implement industrial cooperation between the EU and Japan. It aims at promoting all forms of industrial, trade and investment cooperation between the EU and Japan and at improving EU and Japanese companies' competitiveness and cooperation by facilitating exchanges of experience and know-how between EU and Japanese businesses.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by the EU-based office of the EU-Japan Centre, and is intended to provide EU/Japan-related news.

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