



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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THE EU-JAPAN CENTRE AWARDED DURING THE ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK CONFERENCE



This year's Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) conference was held on 26-28 November 2025 in Aalborg, Denmark, under the theme "Driving innovation, decarbonisation and security for SMEs: a stronger Network in action".



▲ From left: Manuel Hubert, Managing Director, EU side, of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation; Celia Belline, CEO, Cilcare; Bénédicte Ganivet, European Fundings and Partnerships Advisor, CCI Occitanie.

During the conference, the EEN Award featured success stories of SMEs who have made the most of the Network's services, and where the Network acted as a "good compass" in the SME-client-journey. Finalists included stories showing the company's growth path where the Network helped to enhance resilience to e.g. deal with supply chain disruptions, skilled labour shortages, fluctuations in availability and costs of raw materials, and/or rising energy costs. Stories also featured the facilitation of the green and digital transition and the support of clients who have international ambitions.

Following some pre-selection stages, a high-level jury, composed of representatives from the European Commission and an external entrepreneur, selected the winner.

This year, the award went to the EU-Japan Centre (member and representative of the Network in Japan since 2011) and to the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Région Occitanie, for the joint support provided to the French biotech SME **Cilcare**, specialised in early detection and treatment of hearing disorders, following the company's extraordinary achievements in Japan.

A video presenting Cilcare's journey with EEN is available online.

➡ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2Xifj2eF5Y>

And a case study interview detailing Cilcare's experience in Japan can be read on our website.

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

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THE VULCANUS PROGRAMME

A key initiative bridging Japan and the EU through young talent in science, technology, engineering and innovation



A small but unique training programme was launched in 1996 under the name Vulcanus. Since then, with the policy objective of developing young STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) talent who can serve as bridges between European and Japanese industries, our twin programmes — Vulcanus in Europe and Vulcanus in Japan — have been providing R&D-oriented internship opportunities in Europe (for Japanese STEM students) and in Japan (for European STEM students). The alumni network now numbers more than 1,300 and continues to grow. Our Vulcanus alumni are active across many fields — there may even be one in your area! Like any educational initiative for young people, a programme such as Vulcanus has a long-lasting impact on its participants and plays a significant role in strengthening EU-Japan relations. Both students and host companies benefit greatly from this unique exchange. Vulcanus offers students real, hands-on work experience abroad — an opportunity that brings many “first-time” challenges and, with them, deep learning.

On top: Vulcanus alumni present at the EU-Japan Vulcanus Networking Event (7 November 2025, Brussels).

Below from left: Peter Buist, EU Agency for the Space Programme (Vulcanus 1998), Antonio Labrador Jimenez, European Commission (Vulcanus 2003), Takuma Sato, nextnato GmbH (Vulcanus 2019), Ms Outi Slotboom (DG GROW), H.E. Ambassador Kazutoshi Aikawa, Jorge Pinho, Von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics (Vulcanus 2007), Carlos Cunha, IMEC (Vulcanus 2023), Mizuki Okada, Safran Aircraft Engines (Vulcanus 2017).



It is truly inspiring to see how young STEM talents absorb new knowledge, adapt to unfamiliar environments, overcome obstacles, and grow tremendously over the course of their year abroad. We thank our host companies for their generous support to Vulcanus and its participants.

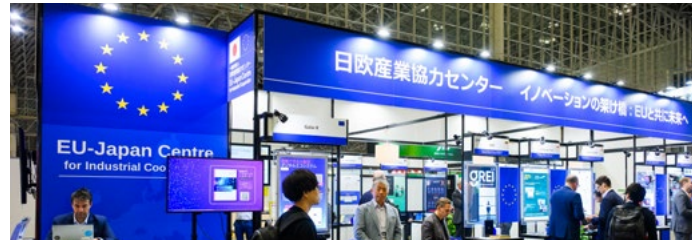
On 7 November 2025, we were honoured to co-organise the first-ever official EU-Japan Vulcanus Networking Event with Ambassador Kazutoshi Aikawa and the Mission of Japan to the European Union.

The EU-Japan Centre is renewing its efforts to keep the Vulcanus alumni network vibrant and to highlight their stories and achievements. We look forward to seeing more and more alumni continue to build bridges between Europe and Japan.

- ➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-japan> (Vulcanus in Japan - for European students)
- ➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/vulcanus-in-japan> (Vulcanus in Japan - for Japanese host companies)
- ➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/ja/training-young-scientists-engineers-vine> (Vulcanus in Europe - for Japanese students)
- ➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-europe> (Vulcanus in Europe - for European host companies)

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS BUSINESS MISSION TO JAPAN 2025

Accelerating Europe-Japan Digital Partnerships



The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation organised a dedicated Digital Solutions Business Mission in Japan from 14 to 17 October 2025, at the occasion of the CEATEC 2025 trade show at Makuhari Messe in Chiba near Tokyo. A group of 12 European SMEs and one cluster from 11 EU Member States presented their innovative digital technologies and services to over 98,000 visitors, attracting interest from Japanese companies and institutional stakeholders. This year's mission focused on fostering digital cooperation and market access opportunities for European companies active in advanced digital fields, reinforcing their presence within Japan's dynamic technology ecosystem. It was the second time that the EU-Japan Centre participated with a booth at CEATEC after a successful first participation last year.

The joint EU Japan Centre exhibition booth at CEATEC 2025 provided each participant with an individual display stand, supported by Japanese language poster and company profile materials, and

professional interpreters to ensure effective communication and visibility with Japanese industry partners. Alongside the Digital Solutions Mission participants, the booth also hosted the National Contact Point for Horizon Europe in Japan and the Gaia-X European Association for Data and Cloud, providing visitors with a comprehensive picture of digital innovation in the EU.

Over four days, several activities were organised to increase participant exposure and networking. The first day featured an official reception with the CEATEC AWARD 2025 ceremony, attended by the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Communications, Economy, Trade and Industry, and Digital Agency. The awards recognised outstanding technologies and services embodying the theme "Innovation for All." On the second day participants attended the exhibitor's networking event for an opportunity to meet with engineers and business leaders from Japanese startups and major corporations' new business divisions.

On the third day participants pitched at the global stage attracting a wide range of interested parties. The final day brought together an event with two mission participants, the Digital Agency in Japan, as well as embassy representatives from France and Ireland to share insights on Digital Transformation (DX) in the Public Sector. This event was organised by the Japan Tax and Public Procurement Helpdesk of the Centre.

CEATEC 2025 generated significant interest among Japanese industry representatives and institutional stakeholders. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba visited CEATEC, drawing significant attention from participating companies and potential investors. The mission participants reported a number of promising meetings and new business opportunities arising from their engagement at CEATEC. The EU Japan Centre regards this Digital Solutions Business Mission as a highly successful initiative, reinforcing and expanding the collaboration between European and Japanese digital ecosystems.

TOWARDS A NEW DIMENSION OF EU-JAPAN DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

The EU-Japan Centre co-hosted a hybrid seminar titled **Towards a New Dimension of EU-Japan Digital Partnership with Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)**.



The event took place at the Europa House of the EU Delegation to Japan on 15 October 2025 on the sidelines of CEATEC2025, an exhibition on digital innovation with the theme of realizing "Society 5.0". The seminar featured notable speakers from the public and private sectors of both sides, focusing on deepening dialogue on the future direction the "Japan-EU Digital Partnership" should pursue toward a prosperous and sustainable future.

Japan and the EU agreed on the "EU-Japan Digital Partnership" at the 2022 Summit and have since been strengthening cooperation to advance the contribution of digital technologies to society and the economy. The significance of the "EU-Japan Digital Partnership" was also explicitly affirmed in the "EU-Japan Competitiveness Partnership" established at the EU-Japan Summit in July 2025.



➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/towards-new-dimension-eu-japan-digital-partnership>



GOVERNMENT SERVICES BUSINESS MISSION TO JAPAN

Call for Expressions of Interest to participate.

The EU-Japan Centre's **Japan Tax & Public Procurement (JTTP) Helpdesk** is exploring the launch of a business mission to Japan in 12-15 May 2026, giving 10–15 selected companies an opportunity to exhibit at the **Government & Public Sector Week Japan**, Japan's premier trade show for municipal and public sector innovation. This mission will spotlight European excellence in sectors such as: Government IT & digital transformation, Waste and sewage processing, Community building & urban renewal, Social welfare & youth services innovation, Childcare solutions, Public space services (museums, libraries, parks, street furniture), Public safety & security, Infrastructure management. If your company is active in one or more of these sectors and interested in joining this mission, we invite you to express your interest now. This is a non-binding step to help us assess demand and shape the program.

Deadline for expressions of interest: 19 December 2025

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/news/call-expressions-interest-to-participate-government-services-business-mission-to-japan-may-2026>

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS BUSINESS MISSION TESTIMONIALS

*"We think the most helpful point of the mission is the joint booth. That gives us visibility we would not have otherwise. The most important lesson for us from this mission is to form a Japanese legal entity. Many companies were so open to our services but have internal company requirements that limit them of doing business only with Japanese companies. Therefore, if we had a that, we would become way more easily approachable by them from a legal standpoint. We have been thinking about it for quite some time now, but this mission reinforced this feeling".**

By **DANIEL FAZEKAS**, CEO at Scriptide Ltd. <https://scriptide.tech>

*Scriptide will open a subsidiary in Japan in January 2026

"Great support for SMEs to access the Japanese market. I would recommend all companies interested in Japan to take advantage of the valuable services of the Centre, which offers knowledge, network and very competent people."

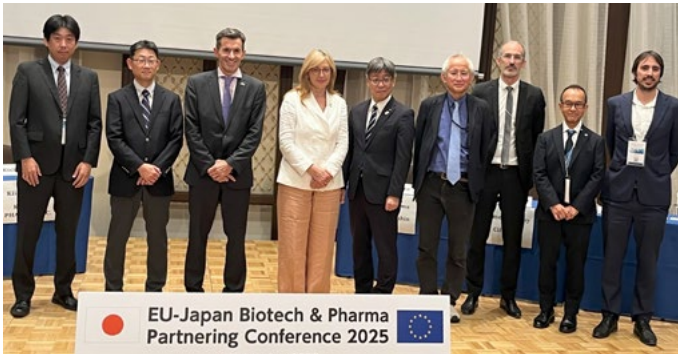
By **SEBASTIANO TOFFALETTI**, Secretary General at European DIGITAL SME Alliance, <https://www.digitalsme.eu>

"The mission provided a deep understanding of how to operate in the Japanese market, from engaging with potential customers and partners to experiencing the local business culture. It helped us realize the importance of building trust, long-term relationships, and adapting our innovation strategies to local expectations".

By **GIEDRE RAJUNCE**, CEO at UAB AI INNOVATIONS – GREI, <https://www.grei.ai/>

BIOTECH BUSINESS MISSION TO JAPAN 2025

Highlights from the 12th Edition of the EU-Japan Biotech Business Mission!



From 6 to 10 October, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation hosted the EU-Japan Biotech Business Mission in Japan, bringing together 16 European entrepreneurs to foster new research and business partnerships. The mission began in Osaka at the EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Conference, with an Opening Ceremony led by the EU General Director, Manuel Hubert, highlighting the Centre's commitment to collaboration with Japan since 1987. The Osaka conference gathered over a hundred EU and Japanese businesses and organisations active in the red biotech and pharma sectors. On 7 October, delegates embarked on a guided tour of Osaka's medical and pharmaceutical landmarks, including Nakanoshima Qross and KENTO.

From 8 to 10 October, delegates participated in BioJapan Expo 2025 in Yokohama, Asia's leading Bio-Industry Partnering Event. Participants engaged in fruitful discussions with their Japanese counterparts at the EU-Japan Centre booth, supported by translated materials, maximising their exposure to Japanese visitors and potential partners. In total, the mission and the Osaka event generated over 350 meetings.

Registrations for the 2026 mission will open in Spring next year.

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

Building on these successes, the EU-Japan Centre is planning next year's Digital and Biotech Business Missions. In addition, the Centre has several other missions in the pipeline aimed at strengthening EU-Japan industrial cooperation across multiple sectors. For detailed updates and announcements, interested parties are encouraged to follow the [EU-Japan Centre's website](#) and [LinkedIn profile](#).



"The most valuable components were the partnering events and the joint booth. The interpreting support was hereby a key aspect to facilitate discussion. The booth allowed for many organic meetings, and the support by the EU-Japan Centre Team was great. Our participation allowed us to start building relationships with Japanese companies. Though further missions are likely needed to foster these relationships to get a real foothold in the Japanese market".

By **JOHANNES EIGLSPERGER**, CTO at Biosimulytics,
<https://www.biosimulytics.ai>

"The EU-Japan mission was an excellent opportunity to build meaningful relationships with Japanese companies. Through this mission, we established several important and practical connections that have already shown strong potential for collaboration. The organization and facilitation of the event were outstanding, creating an ideal environment for business dialogue and partnership development."

By **JUNGSOO PARK**, Vice President of Marketing and Sales at PL BioScience GmbH, <https://www.pl-bioscience.com>

GET READY FOR JAPAN AUTUMN 2025

The 10th Get Ready for Japan (GRFJ) programme successfully wrapped up on Friday, 14 November!



Developed specifically for executives from EU-based SMEs, the GRFJ programme provides practical insights into Japan's market dynamics while fostering cultural awareness. It combines online lectures with on-site learning experiences, including tailored Individual Company Meetings (ICMs) with Japanese firms. In total, 14 enthusiastic SMEs from 11 EU Member States successfully benefited from the training. The programme was held in two phases: an online module held on 20-24 October, and an on-site session in Tokyo on 10-14 November.

The online phase featured 7 expert-led lectures on Japanese business customs, B2B/B2C markets, intercultural communication, and contemporary Japanese society and economy. During the on-site phase in Tokyo, participants deepened their understanding of Japanese business practices through a two-day workshop on cross-cultural negotiation featuring case studies and role playing, corporate visits offering first-hand exposure to Japan's business environment, and tailor-made Individual Company Meetings with Japanese companies.

GET READY FOR JAPAN: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 11TH EDITION IN 2026!



The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation is preparing the 11th edition of its cross-cultural training: "Get Ready for Japan". This specially designed programme supports Managers and Executives from SMEs based in the EU or associated with the Single Market Programme in enhancing their understanding of Japanese business practices and establishing valuable connections.

Participants will benefit from a two-phase programme that includes interactive seminars, workshops, and individual meetings with Japanese companies, all supported by the EU-Japan Centre.

18-22 May 2026: 1st phase online
8-12 June 2026: 2nd phase in Japan
Application deadline: 12 March 2026

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/get-ready-for-japan-training-programme-1>

"This programme has provided immense value, sharpened my strategic thinking, and prepared me for long-term engagement with Japanese partners. I strongly recommend it to other European managers considering expansion into Japan".

By **WILLIAM HOGAN**, CEO at Ecco Spray Ltd
<https://eccospray.ie>

"The "Get Ready for Japan" programme was an exceptional experience that provided deep cultural understanding, valuable business insights, and promising partnership opportunities. The knowledge gained will directly influence our strategic direction, consulting practice, and digital tool development".

By **BOJAN ŠINKOVEC**, CEO at DEMETRA Lean Way d.o.o. <https://performance-storyboard.com/company>

ONLINE MARKET ACCESS WORKSHOPS SUPPORT EU SMEs ENTERING JAPAN

Since 2015, the EU-Japan Centre organised over 100 Japan Market Access workshops to assist EU SMEs that are looking to expand into the Japanese market.

These workshops are held in cooperation with local EU support organisations, including members of the Enterprise Europe Network, clusters, chambers of commerce, and regional development agencies. By working with trusted partners, the Centre ensures that the content of each workshop meets the specific interests of local companies and organisations.

Depending on local needs, workshops may focus on Japanese business culture or specific industrial sectors:

- Food and agri-food
- Biotechnology and medical devices
- ICT, IoT, and digitalisation
- Textiles and fashion

A typical workshop includes an overview of market opportunities, relevant regulations, entry requirements, and strategic considerations. Cultural topics may include how to conduct effective meetings with Japanese partners, how to navigate the negotiation process, and other important elements of Japanese business etiquette and communication.

The EU-Japan Centre covers all costs related to expert speakers.

If your organisation is interested to organise a workshop to support your local businesses, please contact Mr. Antonin Gilkain: workshops@eu-japan.eu



"We were very satisfied with the workshop. It was well-organized, informative, and offered valuable practical insights. The cooperation with the EU-Japan Centre was smooth and professional. The preparatory sessions were especially beneficial in ensuring a well-executed digital webinar. We especially appreciated the in-depth cultural insights, fair answers which are essential for effectively entering the Japanese market. The section on regulatory requirements was also very informative."

By **CRISTINA LINDBERG GHIMPU**,
Export support for SMEs at
Västerbotten Chamber of Commerce

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

LATEST REPORTS AND FORTHCOMING WEBINARS BY THE EU BUSINESS IN JAPAN SUPPORT

Within the EU-Japan Centre's website, over 500 reports and webinars are available to EU businesses looking for practical info about the Japanese markets, their regulations, and their offered opportunities. Also covering some business culture aspects, the EU Business in Japan support is there to help EU businesses succeed in Japan!

Sauna markets in Japan

According to specialised market research firms, valued at USD 40.6 million in 2024, Japan's sauna market is expected to reach USD 66.2 million by 2030, with a compound annual growth rate of 8.6% between 2025 and 2030. The present report analyses the various interconnected elements: a new subculture rooted in tradition, post-Covid19 spreading health consciousness and need for human connections, but also the much praised 'totonou' effect, an almost spiritual feeling of realignment of body and mind - that are driving the sauna boom in Japan, and the relevance it has for EU sauna-related products and services providers, eager to explore sale opportunities on the Japanese market.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/library/publication/report-sauna-market-japan-eu-smes>

Skincare markets in Japan

The Japanese skincare market is highly saturated and competitive, dominated by large domestic brands with cutting-edge R&D departments. Furthermore, the stringent regulations and complex import procedures of cosmetics or quasi-drug cosmetics take time and money to comply with. Nevertheless, there are plenty of opportunities for niche brands, that can localise their story and unique selling points to resonate with Japanese consumers. Understanding the intricate distribution channels and leveraging local resources are of utter importance; however long-term commitment and trust building with partners and consumers are the real keys to success.

➔ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/library/publication/report-skincare-market-japan>

Forthcoming webinars

- 13 January 2026 - Consumption tax in Japan an overview
- 20 January 2026 - Dermatology Skin Care Market in Japan
- 27 January 2026 - Food Distribution Channels in Japan
- 3 February 2026 - Winning Presentation Strategies for Japanese Business Settings
- 10 February 2026 - Opening Pop-Up Stores and Setting up a franchise in Japan

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

- 17 February 2026 - Advancing EU-Japan CCS Cooperation - Innovation and Policy Alignment
- 24 February 2026 - Solar Power Industry Market in Japan
- 3 March 2026 - Understanding 'the Why' behind Japanese business behaviours" – the keys for relationship management
- 10 March 2026 - Batteries and Storage Technologies Market in Japan

THE EU-JAPAN CENTRE IS HERE TO HELP!

Are you a European Union based SME looking to access the Japanese market?
Do you have an enquiry about Japan, its regulations, its market opportunities?
Do you face challenges understanding your Japanese partner or customers culture?



Helpdesks; sectoral business mission to Japan; cultural trainings in Japan; matchmaking events; intelligence related webinars; reports and workshops; policy events and report; internships programmes for science and engineering students, and much more... Co-funded by the European Union, our services are free of charge. The EU-Japan Centre, your gateway to Japan!

➡ <https://www.eu-japan.eu/be-informed>

CASE STUDY: AKKO CAFÉ

Akko Café, recently founded in Brussels, is a place that blends Japanese and European culinary cultures. At its heart, Akko Café is also a Japanese tea house — a concept deeply rooted in Japan's cultural tradition of hospitality and mindfulness.



In Japan, a tea house (chashitsu) is a place dedicated to the art of tea, where the preparation and serving of tea are guided by principles of harmony, respect, purity, and tranquillity. These spaces are designed to encourage calm and reflection through simplicity, natural materials, and attention to detail.

The café was founded by Jane, a 25-year-old with Japanese and French roots. Her idea was to bring together the refined flavours and serenity of Japanese tea culture with the convivial spirit of European cafés. The aesthetic of AkkoCafé also owes much to family collaboration. Rebecca, who is Jane's sister, worked with her colleague Marion Zirn, an industrial designer, to create the furniture and leave a mark on the atmosphere, combining craftsmanship and design to give the space its quiet elegance.

The Help of the EU-Japan Centre

In November 2022, the young entrepreneur contacted the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, an organisation that supports business collaboration between the EU and Japan and helps European SMEs identify reliable partners, understand market opportunities, and expand their presence in Japan. Through the Centre's Food & Beverage B2B Matchmaking Days, she was able to meet several potential Japanese suppliers online, holding regular video meetings to discuss products, logistics, and possible cooperation. These exchanges gave her the confidence and contacts needed to refine her concept and move towards establishing direct partnerships in Japan.

Establishing contacts with Japanese suppliers

After shortlisting suppliers, Jane travelled to Japan for a month, visiting Shizuoka, Osaka, and Kanazawa to meet partners in person and finalise agreements. Her bilingual background and cultural experiences proved essential in building trust and ensuring smooth communication with Japanese suppliers.



These connections allowed her to import authentic ingredients, teas, and utensils that now define the café's unique identity. Beyond food and tea, the café also functions as a concept store, selling Japanese ceramics and utensils, specifically those destined for tea preparation. The interior, designed by Jane's sister, follows a minimalist Japanese style, using natural wood, soft lighting, and muted colours. Its large window facing the street has already become a signature feature, inviting visitors to stop by and enjoy a peaceful moment.

While Paris has long embraced Japanese cafés, Brussels is only beginning to explore this trend. Jane saw an opportunity: Belgian consumers, including many internationals, are increasingly open to new tastes and cultural experiences. Akko Café's blend of authenticity, simplicity, and innovation meets this growing curiosity and positions it as one of the few places in Brussels where Japanese tea culture can be experienced in an authentic way.

By supporting entrepreneurs like Jane, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation continues to foster cross-border partnerships, encourage cultural exchange, and strengthen the presence of high-quality Japanese products and craftsmanship within the European market.

Text based on an interview with **JANE REBILLE**, founder of Akko Café. Received matching support from the EU-Japan Centre.

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

More case studies available.

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

2025 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EU TRADE POLICY

The European Commission 5th Annual Report on the Implementation and Enforcement of EU Trade Policy provides an update of what was done to implement and enforce international trade commitments, and the main results achieved, in 2024 and the first half of 2025.

Main takeaways related to Japan.

EU exports to Japan since the entry into force of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in 2019 have grown by an estimated EUR 267 million.

Sectors which have benefited include wine, drinks and processed agricultural products, animal products (except pig-meat), arable crops and plant-based products. EU agri-food exports to Japan rose by EUR 1 billion (+15%) since 2019. Following bilateral engagement supported by the EU-Japan EPA, Japan revised its list of safe food additives in a way that protected the interests of EU exporters. In 2024, Japan confirmed that 33 additives widely used in the EU would remain on its list, emphasising the EU's reputation for providing high-quality and safe food products.

The EU's largest preferential partners were the UK (21.8% of EU trade with preferential partners), followed by Switzerland (14.2%), Türkiye (9.1%), Norway (6.9%), Japan (5.6%) and South Korea (5.3%).



Together, these six partners accounted for 63% of EU preferential trade in 2024. The EU and Japan stepped up their co-operation under the Green Alliance on issues such as carbon pricing, offshore wind power and carbon capture and utilisation.

On 20 September 2024, the EU and Japanese SME Contact Points held their fourth meeting under the EPA, which was followed up by a separate meeting on 11 November 2024 in Brussels. Both sides reported on their latest initiatives to implement the information-sharing provisions under the EPA and on other activities to encourage more SMEs to take advantage of the EPA. In addition, the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation continued to play a key role in supporting SMEs.

Source: European Commission

➡ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/enforcement-and-protection/implementing-and-enforcing-eu-trade-agreements_en

THE 2ND MEETING OF THE JAPAN-GERMANY ECONOMIC SECURITY CONSULTATIONS

On 14 October 2025, the second meeting of the Japan-Germany Economic Security Consultations took place in Tokyo.

The establishment of this bilateral framework was confirmed by the Heads of Government in July 2024. At the first Japan-Germany Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held in August this year, both foreign ministers also concurred in advancing discussions within the Japan-Germany Economic Security Consultations on how to jointly address economic security challenges.

On the Japanese side, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry co-chaired the meeting and representatives from the National Security Secretariat also participated. The German side was co-chaired by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Foreign Office, with representatives from the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, and the Federal Ministry of Finance in attendance.

Both sides exchanged views on key issues related to economic security, including strengthening the resilience of supply chains, responding to non-market policies and practices, and protecting and promoting critical and emerging technologies. Both sides concurred in further enhancing cooperation in the field of economic security, including through the exchange of expertise.

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry ➡ https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2025/1015_001.html

GENOPOLE AND CEBR ORGANIZED “KOBE BOOTCAMP” TO BOOST EU-JAPAN BIOTECH TIES

Genopole, the French biocluster based in Évry-Courcouronnes, near Paris, together with the Council of European Bioregions (CEBR), organized a two-day bootcamp in Kobe on 2-3 October 2025 to all European life science companies and clusters.



This initiative took place in the framework of a broader exploratory mission to Japan, where Genopole brought a delegation including Auralip, Genethon, Cilcare, Iktos and Xentech to explore partnerships and business opportunities. The bootcamp was followed by the EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Conference in Osaka and by BioJapan 2025 in Yokohama.

The Kobe bootcamp was hosted by the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster (KBIC) and featured expert sessions on market access, intellectual property, funding, and regulation in Japan, as well as networking opportunities with RIKEN, TRI, universities, investors, and Japanese innovators.

This initiative highlighted the role of European companies and clusters as representatives of the European biotech excellence and created a structured entry point for collaboration with Japanese ecosystems.



▲ Third from left: Laurence Lacroix-Orio, Partnerships and Business Development Director at Genopole, on her left, Paul Caroen, Health Program Manager at Genopole, and first from the right, Alexis Biton, International Affairs coordinator at Genopole, with business representatives from Xentech, Auralip and Laboratories Génétho.



Genopole's international team was present onsite to support participants and facilitate meetings. Alexis Biton, International Affairs Coordinator at Genopole, commented: *“These missions underline the importance of building systemic partnerships between innovation ecosystems. By connecting European clusters and Japanese stakeholders, we aim to create more opportunities for companies to scale their solutions in markets very different from where they were born.”* Source: Genopole

➡ <https://cebr.net/european-biotech-mission-to-japan-october-2025/>

BAVARIAN & JAPANESE BIOTECH CLUSTERS CONNECT AT LEADING LIFE SCIENCE EVENTS

On 6-10 October 2025, BioM represented the Bavarian life sciences cluster in Japan. First at the EU-Japan Biotech & Pharma Partnering Conference in Osaka, followed by BioJapan in Yokohama.

In Osaka, the partnering conference attracted 168 European participants - Germany with 34 as the second-largest national contingent. At BioJapan, BioM and Bayern International presented six Bavarian companies – among them Ascenion GmbH, Granzer Regulatory Consulting & Services, Iris Biotech GmbH, IGES Institut GmbH, PATERIS Patentanwälte PartmbB and PAN-Biotech GmbH – at the Bavarian joint booth. BioM was also active in several sessions,

including the Biocluster Summit and a Startup Support Session, and hosted a popular “Bavarian Happy Hour” networking event, connecting Japanese and Bavarian delegates. These activities significantly enhanced the visibility of Bavaria's life sciences ecosystem in the world's second-largest pharmaceutical market – underscoring BioM's mission to foster international collaboration and growth.

Source: BioM



➡ <https://www.bio-m.org/en/media-center/news/news/eu-japan-partnering-in-osaka-bio-japan-in-yokohama-biom-staerkt-internationale-vernetzung-auf-japans-leitmessen-1>

A NEW CHAPTER FOR PIEDMONT-JAPAN COLLABORATION IN LIFE SCIENCES

Life sciences were central to Piedmont's institutional and economic mission in Japan during Piemonte Week at Expo Osaka 2025, reflecting the region's broader strategy to internationalize and showcase its excellence globally.



Collaboration with Japan, a global leader in the biomedical and robotic sectors, opens opportunities for scientific and technological partnerships, fostering a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable society. Piemonte is among Italy's most dynamic regions in life sciences and wellness, with a highly specialized ecosystem that integrates research, industry, and education, encompassing around 2,800 companies across biotech, pharma, medical devices, diagnostics, nutraceuticals, and wellness.

Invited by the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster (KBIC), the Piemonte delegation, including representatives from Regione Piemonte, Ceipiemonte, Torino Chamber of Commerce, Piedmont Life Science Innovation cluster - bioPmed, and Bioindustry Park, visited the Foundation

for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe (FBRI), a hub of medical research and biotech innovation. The visit aimed to strengthen dialogue in biotech, biomedical sciences, and technology transfer, fostering collaboration across scientific, industrial, and academic sectors.

At Expo Osaka, a roundtable was organized at the Italian Pavilion by bioPmed, bringing together Italian and Japanese innovation leaders to discuss shared challenges in life sciences, applied research, and internationalization of technological innovation. The discussions highlighted the strategic role of innovation ecosystems, from science parks to research centers, in enhancing regional competitiveness, promoting best practices, and supporting public-private collaboration.

The mission also saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Osaka Bio Headquarters, bioPmed, and Bioindustry Park to facilitate bilateral access to life sciences markets, technological exchanges, and joint events. Piemonte further showcased its expertise at Medical Japan in Tokyo, presenting six companies under an integrated "Health and Wellness" supply chain project coordinated by Ceipiemonte.

Regional officials emphasized life sciences as a strategic pillar for Piemonte's industrial policy, combining research, technological innovation, and production capabilities. The mission in Japan reinforces Piemonte's position in global innovation ecosystems, fostering opportunities for technology transfer and international partnerships.

Source: Bioindustry Park Silvano Fumero Spa – BioPmed ➡ www.bioindustryark.eu ➡ www.biopmed.eu

THE HAUTS-DE-FRANCE JAPAN CLUB: STRONGER TIES BETWEEN THE REGION AND JAPAN

On 4 November 2025, the Opéra de Lille hosted the third edition of the Hauts-de-France Japan Club, a now essential event for Franco-Japanese economic dialogue. The objective: to further strengthen ties between the Region and Japan, based on cooperation founded on trust, innovation, and friendship.

With more than 80 Japanese companies established in Hauts-de-France, representing nearly 10,000 jobs in key sectors such as automotive, health, logistics and agri-food, the Club embodies the economic dynamism and attractiveness of the territory. This meeting is part of the continuation of the economic and institutional mission carried out in Japan in September 2025 by Xavier Bertrand, President of the Region, and François Decoster, Vice-President in charge of international relations.

These exchanges have made it possible to enhance the existing synergies between the French and Japanese ecosystems, while opening up new perspectives for collaboration in strategic areas: artificial intelligence, energy transition, industry of the future.

Source: Région Hauts-de-France

➡ <https://www.hautsdefrance.fr/le-club-japon-des-hauts-de-france-des-liens-toujours-plus-forts-entre-la-region-et-le-japon/>

LOMBARDY EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASED AT EXPO 2025 OSAKA

On the afternoon of 11 October 2025, the Italy Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka hosted the workshop Lombardy Excellence for Sustainable Development an international event dedicated to highlighting Lombardy's strengths in research and innovation.



The initiative was promoted by the Directorate General for Universities, Research and Innovation of Regione Lombardia and was co-organised by AFIL – the Lombardy Intelligent Factory Association, as part of the institutional programme for Italy Expo 2025 Osaka. The workshop provided an important platform to present two notable European initiatives to the Japanese audience: DeremCo and BATMASS, both co-funded by the European I3 programme and supported by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). AFIL, a partner in both

projects, showcased ongoing activities and results achieved so far, underlining the strategic contribution of Lombard companies and research centres to circular-economy solutions for composite materials and innovative approaches to sustainable waste management. The event also featured dedicated match-making sessions and opportunities for direct dialogue with Japanese industrial stakeholders. These exchanges encouraged the sharing of best practices and the exploration of new opportunities for collaboration, reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in accelerating

the transition toward more responsible and innovative production models. Several members of the cluster were among the speakers, including the Politecnico di Milano, coordinator of both initiatives, as well as Centrocot S.p.A. and Fibereuse Tech, partners in the DeremCo project. ERP Italia Servizi and the University of Pavia, involved in the BATMASS initiative, also contributed their expertise. Their presentations highlighted Lombardy's pivotal role as a region capable of generating cutting-edge technological solutions with positive impact across Europe and global markets. Through this workshop, Lombardy once again demonstrated its commitment to driving sustainable development and fostering global partnerships aimed at shaping a greener, more innovative future.

Source: AFIL - Associazione Fabbrica Intelligente Lombardia

➔ <https://deremco.afil.it/deremco-at-expo-2025-osaka-lombard-demonstrators-take-center-stage-in-the-italian-pavilion-thanks-to-regione-lombardia/>

SUBSIDY FOR FINANCIAL COMPANIES TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN OSAKA

This Subsidy Program offers a helping hand to FinTech-related businesses that are considering establishing their base in Osaka.

The primary goal is to encourage the growth of innovative financial services that leverage IT, including technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain. Companies operating in asset management, investment advisory, and related fields are also eligible to apply for this subsidy.

What Does the Subsidy Cover?

FinTech and financial companies that meet the criteria can receive financial support to cover a part of the cost incurred during the initial phase of establishing a base in Osaka. This reduces the financial burden on companies when entering Osaka market.

Eligibility for Foreign Financial Companies

Foreign financial companies providing services such as innovative financial solutions utilizing IT (including AI and blockchains), asset management, investment advisory, and other asset management-related businesses that are approved by the Governor of Osaka Prefecture, are eligible for this subsidy. It's a move designed to make Osaka an even more attractive destination for international financial firms.

Driving Innovation in Osaka

This initiative reflects Osaka's commitment to fostering innovation and economic growth in the financial sector. By offering support to foreign financial companies, Osaka aims to strengthen its position as a hub for cutting-edge financial technologies and services.

How to Apply

Detailed information on eligibility criteria and the application process is available on official channels. Interested companies are encouraged to explore this opportunity and contribute to Osaka's vibrant financial landscape.



Contact for further Information: Osaka Global Finance One-Stop Support Center, f-onestop@global-financial-city-osaka.jp

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

INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND AGRI-FOOD AT THE HEART OF FRANCO-JAPANESE COOPERATION!

Dijon Bourgogne Week in Kumamoto, held on 22-29 October, celebrated the excellence of Dijon's gastronomy, culture, research, and innovation.

The delegation, led by Lydie Pfander-Meny, Deputy Mayor for International Relations, and Denis Hameau, Deputy Mayor for Higher Education, included representatives from key institutions such as Vitagora, ENSAD, the University Bourgogne-Europe (UBE), and Bourgogne Vigne et Vin. Among the delegates were Christophe Breuillet, Amel Nafti, Vincent Thomas, Fabrice Neiers, Florian Humbert, Alizée Ponnelle (GPPR), Blanche Loiseau (Groupe Bernard Loiseau), and Bertrand Fort, Director of International Relations for Dijon.

Within the French Fair at the Tsuruya Department Store, visitors enjoyed authentic Burgundy specialties: mustard, gingerbread, cassis, and fine wines, while Chef Blanche Loiseau presented live culinary demonstrations celebrating regional savoir-faire. Two conferences on 24-25 October explored Dijon's cultural and gastronomic heritage, including a lecture on food and taste by Professor Fabrice Neiers (UBE).

The International City of Gastronomy and Wine - Dijon showcased its exhibition "Petit théâtre du bien manger et du bien boire" ('A little theatre of good food and good drink') at the Kumamoto Prefecture Hall, attracting significant public interest. The week culminated in the 3rd Food Industry R&D and Business Symposium on 24 October, co-organized by Vitagora, KBCC, Sojo University, RIST, and NARO.



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

The event fostered Franco-Japanese collaboration in agri-food research and technology, emphasizing sustainable production, nutrition, and innovation.

Through shared science, culture, and cuisine, Dijon Bourgogne Week in Kumamoto strengthened the enduring partnership between France and Japan, promoting a common vision for healthy, sustainable, and innovative food systems of the future.



JAPANESE ENTREPRENEUR TAKES ON THE CHALLENGE OF STARTING A COMPANY IN FINLAND

In this article, a Japanese entrepreneur is interviewed about his journey to start a company in Helsinki, Finland, as well as his cultural learnings.



Originally a manager at a Japanese company in the capital region, Kengo Tashiro arrived in Finland with his family in 2017 and has now founded an independent company. His goal is to introduce solutions between Japan and Europe and deliver new value while considering local culture and values.

Tashiro has received start-up support from various systems in Helsinki, both public and private. His company is a resident of Maria 01, the largest startup campus in the Nordics, and he enjoys the atmosphere that encourages business creation and the community coming together under the startup event Slush. Some of Tashiro's cultural learnings include the pro-Japanese attitude in Finland and the famous Finnish work-life balance. The latter, he has embodied as: "When you work, work hard. When you rest, rest hard."

The full interview is available in Japanese. This article is provided by Helsinki Partners, the investment promotion and international marketing agency of the city of Helsinki. The Helsinki Partners specialises in assisting international companies in finding business partners and projects in Finland's capital.

Source: Helsinki Partners ➡ <https://note.com/helsinkipartners/n/n45a29edf11cd>

SOUTHERN SWEDEN EXPANDS GAME TIES WITH JAPAN

A strong delegation from Southern Sweden travelled to Japan this September, participating in both Expo 2025 Osaka and Tokyo Game Show (TGS) 2025 to showcase the region's creativity and deepen collaborations between Sweden and Japan.

The visit began at the Nordic Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, where Business Sweden hosted Play Nordics, an event highlighting the future of games, collaboration potential, and community-driven development. The program featured dialogues between leading studios such as Hazelight Studios and Sega, offering unique insights into cross-cultural innovation and the evolving global games landscape.

Invest in Skåne and Game Habitat joined the event to present Southern Sweden's vibrant game development community and its strengths as a natural landing spot for Japanese studios looking to connect with the European market.

Following Osaka, the delegation headed to Tokyo Game Show (TGS), one of the world's largest gaming events, and showcased all of the Swedish companies in a booth organised under the umbrella of **Invest in Skåne, Game Habitat**



and **Sweden Game Arena**. The delegation included five studios from Southern Sweden: IO Interactive, Apog Labs, Carry Castle, Transcenders Media, and Llama Lane, alongside other leading Swedish developers. These companies also participated in events at Tokyo Innovation Base and Shibuya Startup Support, which was facilitated by the help of the **Japan Business and Innovation Hub** in Malmö. *"Whenever we present the Swedish games ecosystem abroad, people are struck by its density and innovative spirit.*



In Japan especially, the exchange feels natural — many Swedish studios have been deeply inspired by Japanese game culture, and that shared creative DNA forms a strong foundation for collaboration," said Thomas Bressler, Regional Investment Promotion Manager at Invest in Skåne. Through these activities, Southern Sweden reinforced its position as one of Europe's most dynamic games regions and strengthened the bridge between Nordic and Japanese game development communities.

Source: Invest in Skåne ➡ <https://www.minc.se/projects/japan-business-and-innovation-hub>

THE NIC AWARD SECOND EDITION: ITALY'S NEW FASHION SCENE CAPTIVATES TOKYO

The Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ICJJ) successfully concluded the second edition of The NIC (New Italian Cool) Award on 14 November 2025, in Tokyo.

The purpose of the fashion competition is to spotlight emerging Italian design talent and strengthen creative connections between Italy and Japan, serving as a strategic platform for promoting new Made in Italy excellence.

The event brought together 200 guests, including buyers, journalists, influencers, and industry professionals, at the historic Shōtengai Palm shopping street in Musashi-Koyama, twinned with Milan's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. A distinguished Japanese jury featuring designers Tomo Koizumi and Yasutoshi Ezumi, Maiko Shibata from the

company Restir, and industry expert Ritsuko Hotta selected winners across multiple categories based on originality, innovation, and sustainability. The 2025 winners included Alberto Zambelli (Category NEW - Apparel & Press Award), 959 (Category NEW - Accessories), Giulia Lin (Category UPCOMING), Chronos Corps (Lineapelle Prize - Category NEW), Maria Palomba (Lineapelle Prize - Category UPCOMING), and FIALLO (Sustainability Award). Winners presented their collections in an exclusive fashion show and met with Japanese press and distributors.

This year's competition doubled participation to over 80 designers and strengthened partnerships with key industry organizations including Confartigianato, Lineapelle, Itochu Fashion System, coconogacco, and Istituto Marangoni Firenze. Winners' creations will be displayed for one month at the ICJJ showroom in central Tokyo, where the Chamber facilitates connections with buyers and industry professionals. All finalists will receive personalized market consultations and participate in workshops with local designers and artisans.



"The NIC Award is more than a competition, it's a creative hub connecting Italian designers with Japanese professionals, strategically promoting new talent and refocusing Japanese consumers on Italian creativity," stated Davide Fantoni, Secretary General of ICJJ.

Source: Italian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

➡ <https://nicaward.com>

SARDINIAN STARTUPS CONNECT WITH JAPAN'S TECH ECOSYSTEM

On 1-6 December, a delegation of six innovative startups from Italy's Region of Sardinia: APE (AgriTech), CERTY (AI & Cybersecurity), GENUINO BLOCKCHAIN (Product Traceability), ICARUS (HealthTech), LIVEGREEN (BioTech), and ROMBO AI (ICT), took part in an internationalisation programme held in Tokyo and the Kansai area.

The initiative, organised by the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) under commission from the Region of Sardinia, aimed to connect these startups with Japan's thriving innovation ecosystem, creating opportunities for collaboration, investment, and market entry. During the week, the companies participated in workshops, networking sessions, and business meetings with Japanese stakeholders, incubators, and potential partners. Key sessions were held at Tokyo Innovation Base (TIB) and LISH Takanawa Gateway in Tokyo, as well as KOIN Kyoto Open Innovation Network and Keihanna Science City in the Kansai region, concluding the programme at "Pasona Challenge Farm" in Awaji Shima, fostering joint projects in urban regeneration.



The Sardinian startups presented innovative solutions across strategic sectors including agritech, sustainable technologies, and digital innovation, as part of the Region of Sardinia's broader strategy to enhance the international competitiveness of its innovation ecosystem, supporting startups in accessing high-potential foreign markets and building long-term business relationships with global partners.

The programme was coordinated by ITA Tokyo under the guidance of Director Gianpaolo Bruno, in collaboration with local innovation networks and organisations, including TOKYO AI and LYNX, highlighting the strong and ongoing partnership between Italy and Japan in promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation.

Source: Italian Trade Agency – Tokyo office

➡ <https://ice-tokyo.or.jp/>

IVS 2025 - RESHAPE JAPAN WITH GLOBAL MINDS

IVS (Infinity Ventures Summit) is an international startup conference that was held in Kyoto on 2-4 July 2025 bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, and other key players from Japan and abroad.



This year, 3 French startups recommended by La French Tech exhibited at the event, and organizers welcomed participants from across Europe. Building on these connections, IVS2026 is expected to further deepen collaboration with European participants, creating more opportunities for cross-border innovation between Japan and Europe.

The 2025 theme was "Reshape Japan with Global Minds." IVS has always avoided being like traditional "trade shows", which often led to one-sided, sales-driven conversations.

In its new format, startups are introduced through VCs and trusted partners, enabling authentic, trust-based interactions, even in casual settings. For three days, Kyoto transformed into a city of startups. Side events, initiated by attendees themselves, extend far beyond the main IVS venue.

This year more than 500 gatherings took place across the city, turning Kyoto into a vibrant stage for innovation. Rather than a centralized conference, IVS has evolved into a dynamic, decentralized festival, where energy and ideas flow freely through the streets of Kyoto.



During the event, each participant was able to take the center stage, engaging, networking, and driving innovation. Unexpected encounters and cross-disciplinary dialogue sparked fresh insights and opportunities. The event welcomed over 13.000 visitors, 700 speakers, and more than 4.000 meetings were organized.

Next year IVS 2026 will take place on 1-3 July 2026, at venues including the Kyoto Municipal Industrial Promotion Center "Miyakomessa." For the fourth consecutive year, Kyoto will host this conference, which prioritizes tangible benefits by pursuing the experiential value for each participant.

The organizers are looking forward to welcoming more participants from Europe. For more info about the 2026 edition please contact: Kyoto City Industry and Tourism Bureau - Startup & Industry-Academia Collaboration Office: taqb4380@city.kyoto.lg.jp

Source: Kyoto City - Industry and Tourism Bureau Business - Attraction Promotion Office ➡ <https://www.ivs.events/>

FRANCE JAPAN FOUNDATION YOUNG LEADERS FIRST COHORT STRENGTHENS BILATERAL TIES



The France Japan Foundation, created in 2024, is a non-profit organization committed to strengthening ties between France and Japan. Its mission is to encourage the exchange of ideas, deepen connections between influential French and Japanese figures and support the development of joint projects.



Acting as a platform for dialogue, the Foundation organizes events and meetings that bring together leaders, decision-makers, ambassadors, and other prominent actors involved in initiatives impacting both nations.

The first France Japan Foundation Young Leaders seminar took place on 8-11 May 2025, in Paris and Strasbourg. The program gathered 27 distinguished participants under the age of 45, including business executives, diplomats, artists, doctors, Michelin-starred chefs, and elite athletes to discuss key issues shaping the future of Franco-Japanese relations and to develop new forms of cooperation. Invited by the President of the French Republic, the Young Leaders joined the national commemorations on the 8 May. They were welcomed by His Excellency Makita Shimokawa, Ambassador of Japan to France, who emphasized the strong bonds uniting both countries.

A standout moment occurred at the École Normale Supérieure de Musique de Paris during a recital by French violinist Esther Abrami and Japanese pianist Satsuki Hoshino, symbolizing the spirit of cultural dialogue fostered by the Foundation. In Strasbourg, the delegation visited the European Parliament to discuss the importance of embedding Franco-Japanese relations within a broader European perspective, and was received at the Consulate General of Japan by Hiroyuki Uchida.

Four Young Leaders were highlighted: Sakon Yamamoto (CEO, Sawarabi Group), Ami Tamenaga (Galerie Tamenaga), Sarah Finkelstein (Amundi), and Edouard Duval (Champagne Edouard Duval). In 2026, the next seminar will be held in Japan, between Tokyo and Kyoto, offering participants an opportunity to explore key political institutions, leading companies, and major cultural sites.

Source: France Japan Foundation ➔ <https://francejapanfoundation.org/en/young-leaders/>

FRENCH-JAPANESE FOUNDATION EVENTS FOR 2026



The French-Japanese Foundation (FFJ) organized two events at the end of 2025 to foster collaboration between EU and Japan .



1 December 2025, Tokyo, Japan: Seminar on the impact of AI on macroeconomy and financial stability with Banque de France, at the German Institute of Japanese Studies. The workshop was supported by the Banque de France-Fondation France-Japon Lab, the Canon Institute for Global Studies (CIGS), Crédit Agricole Group, the Embassy of France in Japan, the Embassy of Japan in France, the Bank of Japan, and the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ).

3 December 2025, Gunma, Japan: the **CCIF** seminar presented FFJ research on Gunma's economic and social potential, in terms of tourism, aging challenges and local innovation for French and Japanese cooperation.

The FFJ hereby announces several events in 2026 focusing on aging-related challenges both in the EU and in Japan as well as AI and its impact on society. The comparative aspect of the research conducted under the FFJ by its Japanese and EU partners will highlight new partnership opportunities between the two areas.

4-6 March 2026, Paris, France: **INNOVCARE**, care-led innovation: Annual Meeting days. As an embodiment of the aforementioned partnerships, that encompass researchers and civil society,

the **INNOVCARE** project strives to gather interdisciplinary experts on the topic of healthy ageing and autonomy being regarded as socially demanding rather than purely technological, and draws inspiration from both Japanese and EU initiatives in the care-sector.

1-3 July 2026, Bordeaux, France: **SASE** mini-conference2: Questioning the impacts of ageing on societies and economies. Global and comparative perspectives.

27 July 2026, Tokyo, Japan: Conference on the **Special issue for the Journal of the Economics of Ageing** about the current state of the economics of ageing in light of the experience in Japan, putting it in comparative perspective.

Source: French-Japanese Foundation

➔ <http://ffj.ehess.fr>

1ST GERMAN-JAPANESE LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

Strengthening Bilateral Collaboration and Economic Ties

On 3 November 2025, the 1st German-Japanese Leadership Dialogue brought together around 100 senior executives, policymakers and thought leaders to explore how trusted partnerships between Germany and Japan can create stability and opportunity in an increasingly fragmented global environment.

Under the guiding theme "Trusted Alliance in a Fragmented World – Strategic Perspectives on German-Japanese Economic Cooperation", discussions focused on economic security, the strategic role and the importance of deepening German-Japanese business relations in an era of global uncertainty.

Hosted by German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (AHK Japan) and OAV - German Asia-Pacific Business Association, the dialogue served as a reminder of how German-Japanese cooperation continues to thrive through open exchange and shared strategic ambition.



Copyright AHK Japan

After the opening by the organisers, Marcus Schürmann and Almut Roessner, H.E. Mitsuko Shino, Ambassador of Japan to Germany, emphasised the importance of trust, dialogue, and long-term partnership as key pillars of German-Japanese economic cooperation. In the panel on Japan's strategic role in business development, Michael Illies chaired a discussion on Japan's rising strategic importance as a hub for innovation, technology, and regional integration across the Indo-Pacific. In the CEO talk moderated by Nicole Bastian, Karl Anton Deppen underscored the rationale behind the upcoming merger

between Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation and Hino. Questions from the audience touched upon vocational training as a pillar in Mitsubishi Fuso's endeavour to develop qualified staff.

In the second part of the event, Andreas Glunz shed light on Japan's responses to its current structural and geopolitical challenges. Subsequently, Dr. Shogo Akagawa moderated a panel on economic security. All speakers agreed that reducing dependencies is a long and difficult process – but decisive action and close cooperation are key to achieving progress.

Source: AHK Japan - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan

➡ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ahk-japan_ihkfrankfurt-deutschebank-apa-activity-7391416820861235200-ZhO7

YOKOHAMA CITY LEADS WITH LAUNCH OF ASIAN CIRCULAR CITIES DECLARATION

The Asia Smart City Conference (ASCC) 2025 was held in Yokohama, Japan, from 25 to 27 November, bringing together representatives from cities around the world alongside international organizations, academic institutions, and private enterprises to discuss the realization of sustainable urban development that balances economic growth with a livable urban environment. This year marks its 14th edition.



During the conference, the City of Yokohama issued a joint open letter with Asian city leaders, including the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration calling on international organizations and other stakeholders to support the circular transition in Asian cities, including the establishment of a Circular City Declaration framework in Asia. The open letter was inspired by region-wide actions and the mechanism of the European Circular Cities Declaration.

The City of Amsterdam, a pioneering city on this agenda, warmly welcomed Yokohama's leadership and expressed its commitment to joining forces across Europe and Asia to accelerate the transition to circular cities. The determination and expectations expressed in the open letter resonated with representatives from ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, and ICLEI Japan announced plans to launch an Asian Circular Cities Declaration framework. (ICLEI is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments, with its Secretariat based in Germany).

Alongside this commitment, international entities such as Circle Economy Foundation, CITYNET, UN-ESCAP, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the World Economic Forum discussed providing support and collaborating with circular cities in Asia.

At the conference, it was also announced that Yokohama Mayor Yamanaka (at the centre of the photo) would assume the role of ICLEI Global Executive Committee Circular Development Portfolio World Board Director (Circular Growth).

Source: The City of Yokohama Europe Representative Office ➡ <https://ascc.city.yokohama.lg.jp/en/index.html>

JDZB'S ALUMNI REUNION "BUILDING INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES! ALUMNI IN DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE EXCHANGE"

The Japanese-German Center (JDZB) was founded 40 years ago, on 15 January 1985, to promote and deepen Japanese-German and international exchange at the levels of business, science, culture, society, and politics. To mark this occasion, the JDZB organized an alumni reunion for its exchange programs, where former participants could reconnect and forge new connections across programs and years.



Under the title "Building International Bridges! Alumni in Dialogue for Sustainable Exchange," former participants from all five current JDZB exchange programs met in person at the JDZB for the first time across all programs, including young professionals, volunteers, youth welfare specialists, young leaders and scientists. Following in-depth discussions in program-specific working groups, the panel discussion "Sustainably Building Bridges Through Exchange – What Does It Take?" highlighted how exchange programs support professional and personal development, foster intercultural competencies, and create innovative networks.

Alumni reported on the synergies that emerged from new contacts made during the programs. A key takeaway from the event was the realization that exchange programs represent a sustainable investment with long-term impact. Another important impulse was the need to open the programs to a more international audience.

The further development of the programs and securing their funding were central concerns raised with the stakeholders present. Former participants also see themselves as responsible for continuing to engage in Japanese-German and international exchange.

During the event, officials from both Japan and Germany praised the value of Japanese-German exchanges. They emphasized the importance of personal interaction, the strength of the alumni network, and the role of the JDZB in fostering long-standing, trusted cooperation between the two countries.

The JDZB has been organizing exchange programs for over 20 years in cooperation with key partner institutions. The alumni event was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Source: JDZB

➡ <https://jdzb.de/de/mediacenter/news/rueckblick-alumnitreffen-der-austauschprogramme-anlaesslich-des-40-jaehrigen>

IURC2 KICKS OFF IN JAPAN

Advancing EU-Japan Sustainable Urban and Regional Cooperation

The IURC Japan Kick-off took place in a hybrid format on 2 October 2025 as part of the Kyoto Smart City Expo 2025, co-hosted by Kyoto Prefecture. The session marked the formal launch of the International Urban and Regional Cooperation Programme (IURC) Phase II in Japan, bringing together European and Japanese representatives to deepen city and regional collaboration across thematic clusters such as urban innovation, industrial modernisation, clean energy, circular economy, and climate adaptation.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from Mr. Andreas Röttger, Head of Regional Team – Asia/Pacific at the European Union's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI). He underlined the EU's long-term engagement with Japan in supporting livable urban innovation and knowledge exchange through the quadruple helix approach: linking government, academia, business, and civil society. Mr. Röttger emphasised that IURC Phase II continues to build on a decade of successful decentralised cooperation, now strengthened by structured thematic clusters.

Following him, Mr. Cesar Moreno, FPI Representative for Japan, reflected on 13 years of EU-Japan cooperation, recalling milestones achieved through previous initiatives under the EU's external action framework. He commended the Japanese partners for their openness to co-developing solutions on shared challenges—ranging from energy transition to demographic change—and reiterated the EU's commitment to supporting peer-to-peer learning and concrete pilot implementation.

Source: International Urban and Regional Cooperation Programme

➡ <https://www.iurc.eu/2025/10/02/iurc2-kicks-off-in-japan-advancing-eu-japan-sustainable-urban-and-regional-cooperation>

HANAMI WORKSHOP ADVANCES EU-JAPAN MATERIALS SCIENCE RESEARCH

From 3 to 7 November 2025, the HANAMI project, in collaboration with CECAM, organised the workshop “Materials Science from First Principles: Materials Scientist Toolbox 2025” at Sorbonne Université in Paris, France. This five-day training event brought together researchers from Europe and Japan to explore state-of-the-art methods and high-performance computing (HPC) tools for modelling materials from first principles.

The programme combined theoretical lectures with hands-on practical sessions, covering a wide range of approaches including density functional theory (DFT), quantum Monte Carlo (QMC), and many-body perturbation theory (GW/BSE). Participants received practical training using three key codes developed and supported within the HANAMI community: SIESTA for DFT simulations, TurboRVB for quantum Monte Carlo, and Yambo for excited-state calculations.

Throughout the week, leading European and Japanese experts delivered sessions on topics such as sustainable energy materials, scalable numerical techniques, advanced electronic-structure methods, and quantum nuclear dynamics. Among the contributors were Andrea Ferretti (CNR), Claudio Attaccalite (CNRS), Tomomi Shimazaki (Yokohama City University), Takao

Kotani (Tottori University), and Terumasa Tadano (NIMS), who guided participants through cutting-edge modelling strategies and computational workflows.

The workshop also provided an important opportunity for strengthening links between the European and Japanese materials-science communities, supporting HANAMI’s mission to promote long-term collaboration in scientific areas that rely heavily on advanced HPC resources. By equipping early-career researchers and specialists with modern computational tools and fostering exchange across both regions, the event contributed to building a sustainable, interconnected network in materials modelling, which is one of the core scientific pillars of the HANAMI project.

Source: INESC TEC

➔ <https://hanami-project.com/2025/11/13/hanami-materials-science-from-first-principles-materials-scientist-toolbox-2025-exploring-quantum-simulations-and-hpc-tools/>

HANAMI HIGHLIGHTS EU-JAPAN HPC COOPERATION

The HANAMI project (Hpc AlliaNce for Applications and supercoMputing Innovation: the Europe - Japan collaboration) concluded 2025 with two flagship events aimed at strengthening scientific and technological cooperation between Europe and Japan. Both events took place in Chamonix, France.

The 2nd HANAMI High-Level Symposium (8–11 December 2025) brought together leading European and Japanese experts in climate modelling, materials science, biomedical research, and advanced simulations. Through keynote presentations and panel discussions, participants explored how next-generation High-Performance Computing (HPC) systems can accelerate progress in these strategic scientific areas. Speakers included Xavier Blase (CNRS), Kazuhiro Yabana (University of Tsukuba), Ai Shinobu (University of Osaka), Mario Rüttgers (Inha University), Hirofumi Tomita (RIKEN), and Helene Hewitt (UK Met Office). The symposium aims to foster dialogue, share cutting-edge research, and encourage deeper cooperation between the two regions’ HPC communities.

On 11 December, and co-located with the 2nd High-Level Symposium, the 2nd Europe–Japan Strategic Dialogue gathered policymakers, research funders, and scientific leaders to examine what’s next on the EU-Japan HPC agenda for strategic scientific areas. This high-level meeting focused on future opportunities and sustainability of the collaboration, building on recent progress in strengthening EU–Japan cooperation in HPC. Contributions from policymakers and experts including Kiyoshi Kurihara (MEXT), Rafal Duczmal (EuroHPC JU Governing Board), Pier Luigi Vidale (University of Reading), Ai Shinobu (University of Osaka) and Fabien Grasset (CNRS) supported the development of a shared roadmap for future EU–Japan HPC cooperation.



In addition, the dialogue built on the newly released **HANAMI policy paper**, “EU–Japan supercomputing collaboration boosts disruptive research and innovation,” which outlines recommendations for sustainable collaboration models, joint funding mechanisms, and shared access to HPC infrastructures. **These insights** will help inform discussions on advancing EU–Japan HPC collaboration. Together, these two events reflect the growing ambition and depth of the EU–Japan HPC ecosystem. By bringing together key actors across policy, research, and infrastructure, HANAMI continues to strengthen a collaborative framework that supports scientific excellence and addresses global challenges through HPC area.

Source: INESC TEC

➔ <https://hanami-project.com/2025/03/13/hanami-high-level-symposium-2nd-edition>

➔ <https://hanami-project.com/2025/04/09/hanami-europe-japan-strategic-dialogue-whats-next-for-strategic-scientific-areas>

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

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

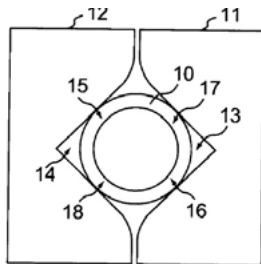


LICENSING OFFER

Sector: medical devices

A Japanese firm offers a patented mechanism for peristaltic pumps under a licensing agreement

Profile ID: **TOJP20241011003**



REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTOR

Sector: beverages

A Japanese alcohol beverage distribution firm specialized in traditional sake and fruit liqueurs

Profile ID: **BOJP20241105002**

SERVICES OFFERED

Sector: beverages, design

A Japanese distributor of sake offers OEM services for product development and packaging design to partners in the EU

Profile ID: **BOJP20241105003**



LICENSING OFFER

Sector: renewable energies

Japanese company seeks licensing partners for its micro hydropower unit

Profile ID: **TOJP20241001002**



ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK EVENTS

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

EU-JAPAN GREEN TRANSITION 2025-2026

Until 31 March 2026, Online

Sector: green, renewable, environment

Registration deadline: 30 March 2026



The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation is relaunching its successful online B2B matching event targeting entities active in green transition sectors.

The platform brings together Japanese and European companies and research institutions, fostering partnerships that contribute to a low-carbon society and lead to innovative green technologies, processes, and applications between the European Union and Japan.

Target fields:

- Hydrogen / Fuel cells and electrolyzers
- Battery/storage technologies
- Solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies
- Grid technologies
- Onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies

- Carbon Capture and storage (CCS) technologies
- Heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies
- Energy Efficiency Technologies
- Green materials / Low-carbon construction and manufacturing
- Circularity / Product lifecycle management (PLM) and Recycling
- Environmental Monitoring Analysis and Assessment Equipment

Eligibility:

Access to this platform is reserved for representatives of enterprises, research and educational institutions and other related organizations, active in the above target fields and headquartered in Japan or the European Union. Individuals are not eligible for participation.

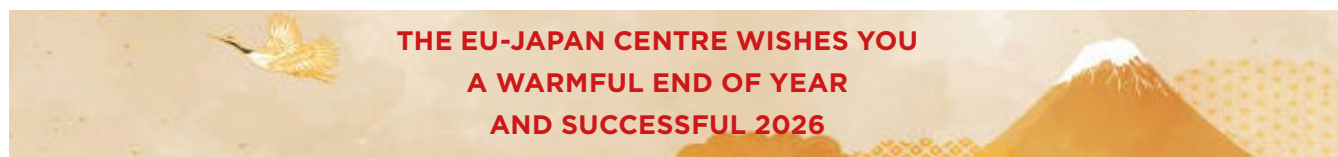
Organisers will review registrants' profiles and accept them if they are eligible and appropriate for the event.

Registrations are open and the platform will be active until end of March 2026.

➡ <https://www.b2match.com/e/eu-japan-green>



DATE/LOCATION	DETAILS	CONTACTS
13 January 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 261: Consumption tax in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
20 January 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 262: Dermatology Skin Care Market in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
27 January 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 263: Food Distribution Channels in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
3 February 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 264: Winning Presentation Strategies for Japanese Business Settings	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
10 February 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 265: Opening Pop-Up Stores and Setting up a franchise in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
16-20 February 2026 Nagoya, Japan	TRAINING MISSION World Class Manufacturing	https://www.eu-japan.eu/world-class-manufacturing
17 February 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 266: Advancing EU-Japan CCS Cooperation - Innovation and Policy Alignment	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
24 February 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 267: Solar Power Industry Market in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
3 March 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 268: Understanding 'the Why' behind Japanese business behaviours" – the keys for relationship management	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
10 March 2026	WEBINAR 'About Japan' webinar series 269: Batteries and Storage Technologies Market in Japan	https://www.eu-japan.eu/eubusinessinjapan/events
16-19 Mar 2026 Tokyo, Japan	BUSINESS MISSION Green Business Mission	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/green-mission
18-22 May 2026 Online 8-12 June 2026 Tokyo, Japan	TRAINING MISSION Get Ready for Japan - first session 2026 Application deadline: 19 March 2026	https://www.eu-japan.eu/events/get-ready-for-japan-training-programme-1



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.

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

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