



EU- Japan Partnership

Ready for the “Big Bang”?

Dear everyone,

You are cordially invited to the 2018 EJARN conference entitled, **EU-Japan Partnership; Ready for the ‘Big Bang’?** After 5 years of meetings in various locations in Europe we will now be back to Stockholm again. The meeting will be held 8-9 of June. 2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of the EJARN network which we will celebrate in various ways. It is also the 150 years anniversary of the Swedish diplomatic relations with Japan, a second reason for celebration. A third reason for celebration is that the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which has been a continuing topic on our meetings during the years now finally has been concluded. We will of course follow up on this topic as well as the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA). EU-Japan cooperation seems more relevant than ever to protect the liberal world order when we have a president in the US that pursues a policy of “America First” and a growing Chinese power that is becoming more assertive and outward oriented. Paper presentations on this topic (to be understood in a broad sense) are most welcome. On the first day, besides EJARN members and other academics, we will also invite high level EU as well as Japanese officials and business representatives. We are particularly interested by contributions, which classically analyze the impact of a trade agreement between the two economies, but also, from a political economy perspective, which study the impact of these agreements.

For those of you not interested in EU-Japan and trade relations do not worry... The security situation in East Asia is to say the least explosive. During 2017 North Korea continued its nuclear weapon testing and fired more than 20 missiles, some of them over Japanese territorial water. The Japanese South Korean relations are with the re-inspection of the 12.28 agreement on comfort women and a lawsuit by victims of forced labor is as sources of new conflicts between the two countries. We are equally interested in these issues as well as other Japan related issues such as domestic politics, societal and economic change. Discussions on the future of energy (and particularly nuclear) policy, how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inequalities and welfare policy, demography and migrations are more than welcome, especially in a comparative perspective with Europe. Therefore, do not hesitate to submit proposals dealing with this question. Finally, in the case you are involved in joint research, do not hesitate to submit a panel proposal.

For those of you who want to make presentations, please send us an abstract of your paper by no later than April 1. We hope we will be able to provide assistance to cover travel and lodging costs for a limited number of scholars (priority for presenters and EJARN members).

This meeting will provide a great opportunity for intellectual exchange for all of us working on Japan. The season for anyone planning to come to Scandinavia is the best. Temperature should be OK, all the green leaves and flowers out. Although we cannot guarantee the weather, June is the time when we have the long white nights.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Stockholm in 2018!



Marie Söderberg (on behalf of EJARN's Executive Committee)

PS: If you need further information concerning content please contact marie.soderberg@hhs.se or if you are able to tell us immediately if you plan to attend (this would assist in our booking of hotel rooms) contact nanhee.lee@hhs.se who will be in charge of all administrative matters