



A Report from the Conference "Towards stronger and deeper relations between Japan and the EU"

This year's European Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN) conference marked something new. After five years with conferences in Stockholm, the location moved to Paris. Our local host on this occasion, 24-25 June 2013, was the School for Advanced Studies in Social Science (EHESS). The main responsibility for the conference organization was held by Professor Sebastien Lechevalier, President, Fondation France Japon de l'EHESS and his local team, with some assistance from the European Institute of Japanese Studies in Stockholm. Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO) contributed generously to the financing of this conference.

Like last year, the first day was devoted to progress on EU-Japan relations on both the political and economic levels. The conference this year was very timely as it was held just at the same time that negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement / Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and EU were being held in Tokyo. In parallel, negotiations for a binding political agreement were ongoing. EJARN has followed this process closely since the 20th EU-Japan Summit in Brussels (2011) where the Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan met with both Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission and agreed to start the parallel negotiations.

As with last year's conference, the first day was dedicated to bringing together business leaders, officials and scholars. Held at the OECD headquarters, it began with some welcome remarks from the local host, President of the Fondation France Japon de l'EHESS Sébastien Lechevalier. His Excellencies Mr Ichiro Komatsu, Ambassador of Japan to France and Mr Motohide Yoshikawa, Ambassador of Japan to the OECD and Ms Minna Liira, Deputy Permanent Representative of the EU Delegation to the OECD all gave brief comments on the progress toward EU-Japan agreements especially with regard to the FTA negotiations which had progressed to the second meeting, this time in Tokyo. The third meeting will be in Brussels during the final week of October. Marie Söderberg, Director, EIJS and chairperson of EJARN's Executive Committee wrapped up the opening session and gave some background to the

establishment of EJARN six years ago, noting that the aim of EJARN is to raise awareness of the EU in Japan and of Japan in the EU through the improvement and encouragement of mutual research.



Pictured above (L-R): Professor Söderberg, Ms Liira, HEM Komatsu, HEM Yoshikawa and Professor Lechevalier. To the far right is Ms Minna Liira at the podium.

In Session I, *Setting the scene: macro/micro and global contexts*, Christian Sautter, Former French Minister of Finance acted as the chair and moderator, and introduced the session with a positive assessment of the potential benefits to both Japan and the EU of an FTA. First, Moreno Bertoldi, Head of Unit ‘Countries of the G-20, IMF, G-Groups’ at the European Commission, gave a historic presentation of EU-Japan relations and what has been driving them. The second speaker Mr Daisuke Kotegawa, Research Director, Canon Institute of Global Studies spoke about the financial crises from a Japanese perspective and the final speaker was Professor Fukunari Kimura, Faculty of Economics, Keio University, who spoke on rulemaking in international trade and why the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement is needed.



Pictured above (L-R) Mr Sautter, Mr Bertoldi, Mr Kotegawa and Professor Kimura.

In Session II, *Understanding the political process of negotiation*, the chair was Sébastien Miroudot, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD. The first speaker was HEM Motohide Yoshikawa, Ambassador of Japan to the OECD, followed by HEM Hye-min Lee, Korean Ambassador to France who spoke about his own experience of negotiating South Korea’s Free Trade Agreements with both with EU and the US. This was followed by comments by Masaya Fujiwara, Minister, Japanese Embassy in France, who spoke about Japan’s strategy toward the FTA with the EU and then by Patrick Messerlin, Professor Emeritus, Sciences Po who discussed the challenges of negotiating mega-FTAs such as the one between the EU and Japan.



Pictured above (L-R): Mr Miroudot, Mr Yoshikawa, Mr Fujiwara, HEM Lee & Prof. Messerlin

Directly after lunch we turned to a session on *The viewpoint of business* chaired by Sébastien Lechevalier, Associate Professor, EHESS. Michel Gardel, Vice-President, Toyota Motor Europe, spoke about the automotive industry & the EU-Japan FTA/EPA. Carsten Dannöhl, Senior Adviser, Business Europe and Michel Theoval, Senior Vice Chairman, European Business Council in Japan gave some European perspectives. Takahiro Tomonaga, General Manager, Strategic Information and Research Department, Mitsui & Co. Benelux and Masahiko Yoshii, Professor, Kobe University (EU Institute in Japan Kansai) concluded the session with some Japanese perspectives.



Pictured above (L-R) Mr Tominaga at the podium (inset) and then: Mr Dannöhl, Professor Lechevalier, Mr Gardel, Mr Tominaga, Mr Theoval, and Professor Yoshii.

The last session of the first day, *Beyond trade and FDI: The non-economic dimensions of EU-Japan collaboration*, was chaired by Marie Söderberg, Director, European Institute of Japanese Studies. The speakers were Michito Tsuruoka, Visiting Fellow, Royal United Services Institute and Research Fellow, Japanese National Institute of Defense Studies, Nicola Casarini, Research Fellow, EU Institute of Security Studies, Shiro Komatsu, Assistant Professor, Waseda University and Axel Berkofsky, Professor, University of Pavia, who spoke on the political and security relationship.



Pictured above (L-R): Professor Söderberg, Dr Tsuruoka, Dr Casarini, Professor Komatsu and Professor Berkofsky

The first day was rounded off with a lovely reception for all the participants at the Château de la Muette, the original headquarters of the OEED (forerunner of the OECD) by courtesy of the Japanese Delegation to the OECD. In this beautiful and historic setting, the participants could continue to enjoy building contacts via pleasant, lively discussions. Many of the participants then also continued discussion in a Spanish Tapas Bar in downtown Paris.



Pictured above (L-R): Dr Lindberg of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a view of the lovely reception, and Professors Yoshii and Lechevalier

The second day of the conference was more of a traditional academic workshop held at EHESS in the Amphithéâtre François Furet with paper presentations, comments by discussants followed by in-depth discussions. We started the morning with a session called *Japanese Politics: Anything New?* chaired by Marie Söderberg, Director, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics. Paul Midford, Professor, Department of Sociology and Political Science, Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU) presented on 'Foreign Policy as an Issue in the 2012 Lower House Election'. Next was Felix Spremberg, PhD student, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich who spoke on 'Social Democratic Actors in the DPJ', a segment of his doctoral research. The third speaker was Patricia A Nelson, Senior Research Fellow, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics who presented 'Interest groups, Governance Structures and Lobbying'.

In the next session, *A first assessment of Abenomics* chaired by Etienne Rolland-Piègue, Senior Economist, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sébastien Lechevalier, Associate Professor, EHESS presented 'Abenomics: A critical

assessment', followed by Matthieu Bussière, Head of International Macroeconomics Division, Banque de France, who spoke on 'Assessing the first steps of Abenomics'. Then Shigeto Nagai, General Manager for Europe, Bank of Japan, spoke on 'BOJ's Monetary Policy: A new approach to escape from a deflationary equilibrium.' The session concluded with Carin Holroyd, Associate Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan, who spoke on 'Reshaping the Japanese economy'.



Pictured above (L-R): Mr Rolland-Piègue, Professor Holroyd, Mr Nagai, Mr Bussière, Professor Berkofsky, Dr Yamamoto, Professor Skovsted Hansen and Professor Söderberg

Axel Berkofsky, University of Pavia, chaired the session on, *Foreign policy and ODA* in which the first speaker, Marie Söderberg, Director, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics, presented 'Myanmar: The last frontier for Japanese ODA to Southeast Asia'. Annette Skovsted Hansen, Associate Professor, History and Asian Studies, Institute for Culture and Society, Aarhus Universitet was the second speaker on 'The Impact of historical networks on ODA distribution in Africa'. Next was Pekka Korhonen, Professor, University of Jyväskylä who spoke on 'China in Japanese Rhetoric.' Aki Tonami, Researcher, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies presented 'A 'non-Arctic' policy? A comparison between the EU and Japan'. Yumiko Yamamoto, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Sciences Po - CERI acted as discussant which led to a lively discussion.



Pictured above (L-R): Professor Lechevalier, Mr Mercier and Ms Chu

The final session was organized as a 'Special session on EU funding for research cooperation with Japan' chaired by Sébastien Lechevalier, EHESS. The first two speakers, Antoine Mercier, International Affairs Officer (Japan), French Ministry

of Higher Education and Research, and Caroline Chu, Head of European Affairs and Partnerships, EHESS, presented information on what types of applications to the EU have been successful in general and in areas likely to be of interest to EJARN members. Next Patricia A. Nelson, Senior Research Fellow, European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics presented the results of the survey of conference members, which sought to identify common research topics and to gauge the level of interest in joint research projects and experience with EU applications. These results indicated that many are interested in topics surrounding foreign policy, security, energy management and the environment and would welcome opportunities to apply for funding such as EU grants. A stimulating discussion on joint research among EJARN members and on the best ways to move forward ensued. The same survey will be circulated to EJARN members who could not attend the Paris meeting and results will be announced later this year.



The participants, some of them gathered here in front of the Sorbonne University, would like to thank Sebastien Lechevalier and his team for all the efforts put into organizing this conference!

To give an update on other EJARN activities I would like to mention our cooperation project with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation “The Nexus of Security and Development, Prospects for EU-Japan Cooperation”. Three conferences were organized on this theme (Berlin, Tokyo and Brussels). Policy proposals were compiled in the form of a small publication. The proposals were presented and further debated with stakeholders at a conference in Tokyo in January this year (EJARN was represented by Paul Midford and Marie Söderberg) and in Brussels at a special luncheon organized for this purpose in April (EJARN was represented by Axel Berkofsky). The policy proposals were printed in 2000 copies (Title: A Proposal for a Way Forward on EU-Japan Cooperation at the Nexus of Security and Development). The paper copies

quickly ran out quickly so unfortunately we could not bring any with us to Paris. The proposals are still available on the net for those of you who have not seen them yet.

(<http://www.hhs.se/EIJS/EJARN/Documents/Policy%20Recommendations.pdf> or <http://www.kas.de/japan/en/publications/33560/>) Thank you all EJARN members that have participated in this project so far!

Our aim is to continue this project through a so called track two dialogue where academics, politicians, government officials, business people, representatives from the press and NGOs as well as other stakeholders meet and discuss prospects for cooperation between EU and Japan. The aim is to follow up the proposals and pursue new and inventive ideas.

In Paris EJARN's Executive Committee was reelected for another year and is comprised of the following people.

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Please note that next year's meeting will be held in Trondheim, Norway June 16-17, 2014. Please book the dates already now.

If not before, I am looking forward to seeing you all in Trondheim next year!

All the best

Marie Söderberg