



## 10 Years of the EU-Japan Science Policy Forum

**Organised by the  
Delegation of the European Union to Japan and  
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)**

The EU-Japan Science Policy Forum highlights the high-level and fruitful dialogue on STI policy that has been established between the two sides. It started in 2010 as an informal discussion and evolved into a conference in the dramatic aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima Catastrophe; this event grew over the years into a prestigious and sought-after Forum for dialogue and exchange on highly topical Science Policy issues between top-level representatives of the science and innovation systems of Europe and Japan. This bilateral forum is fully in line of a Joint Vision towards a new strategic partnership in Research and Innovation between the European Commission and the Government of Japan, that was endorsed by EU and Japan leaders during the EU-Japan Summit in May 2015; one of the five domains of this partnership is 'Deepening mutual understanding on key STI policies' - this annual event constitutes a key contribution towards this (please see below).

Year	Date	Title	Venue
2010	Oct. 3	<b>The Governance of Science and Technology in the European Union and in Japan</b>	Shiran Kaikan Kyoto University
2011	Oct. 1	<b>Risk Communication during Emergencies</b>	Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto
2012	Oct. 6	<b>Japan's New Energy Mix – Creating a Viable and Trusted Path</b>	Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto
2013	Oct. 5	<b>The Changing Map of Science – Nations and Industries in the Global Innovation System</b>	Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto
2014	Oct. 4	<b>Science 2.0: Science in Transition</b>	Kyoto International Conference Center
2015	Oct. 3	<b>Foresight for STI Policy in an Era of Accelerated Change</b>	Kyoto International Conference Center
2016	Oct. 1	<b>Nurturing Future Human Resources for STI</b>	Westin Miyako Kyoto Hotel
2017	Sept.30	<b>Evidence Based STI Policy</b>	Kyoto Hotel Okura
2018	Oct. 6	<b>Boosting Innovation: Policy Initiatives and Measures in the EU and Japan</b>	Hotel Nikko Princess Kyoto
2019	Oct. 5	<b>New STI Policy in Changing World: Preparation and Implementation</b>	Kyoto International Conference Center

\* The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was organized by the Delegation of the EU to Japan and the University of Tokyo.

## **BRIEF SUMMARY**

### **2010 (1<sup>st</sup>)**

#### **The Governance of Science and Technology in the European Union and in Japan**

The EU's Technology Assessment (TA) institution named S&T Options Assessment (STOA) and the Japanese Government shared how each deals with TA and shared the importance of TA in an era when S&T is becoming more complex and complicated. Japan presented its plan to include the importance of TA in the 4<sup>th</sup> S&T Basic Plan.

### **2011 (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

#### **Risk Communication during Emergencies**

Representatives from academia, government and media discussed their views about Technology Assessment and Risk Communication in three panels: Media and Science; Government and Science; and Media and Government. They analyzed what should be done in times of emergency and what kind of communication system can operate globally.

### **2012 (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

#### **Japan's New Energy Mix – Creating a Viable and Trusted Path**

The Fukushima accident made Japan to change its policy of increasing the share of nuclear power to 50% by 2030. The forum discussed the new policies, available instruments and institutions in Japan and in the EU that could help to increase the necessary public understanding of S&T. The discussion included the pros and cons of suggested instruments by the policy makers who were in the difficult position to create the best scenario for their countries.

### **2013 (4<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **The Changing Map of Science: Nations and Industries in the Global Innovation System**

International collaboration brings the direct confrontation of different schools of thought, the integration and the exposure to different cultures and markets. Viewed from industries, collaboration might be too sensitive; international standardization might be a crucial goal of joint research; and navigation between competition and cooperation would be an issue. The forum discussed the challenges science organizations and industries are facing.

### **2014 (5<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Science 2.0: Science in Transition**

Science is in transition towards the use of open data, open annotation, data-intensive science, open access to publications and research outputs. The stakeholders are in various stages of responding or adapting to the evolving situation. This has implicated publishers to move towards models of open access to publications and research data. The forum discussed the future direction.

**2015 (6<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Foresight for STI Policy in an Era of Accelerated Change**

Japan and European countries already have substantial experience of undertaking foresight via Delphi, trend impact analysis, horizon scanning or other prospective studies. How do these fit an era of unprecedented and accelerated technological change and disruptive innovation? Posing the overall policy issues for the EU and Japan, experts addressed the frontline of foresight activities and discussed how they need to adapt to the new era.

**2016 (7<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Nurturing Future Human Resources for STI**

Japan's 5<sup>th</sup> S&T Basic Plan emphasized the importance of this theme. EU introduced a range of funding schemes to support researcher careers and mobility and enhancement of scientific culture in society. The forum recognized the importance of the topic and saw it as one of the key challenges confronting S&T policy for both EU and Japan.

**2017 (8<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Evidence Based STI Policy**

Both EU and Japan invest substantial amounts of money on STI. Evidence-based STI policy is thus critical for helping prioritize the areas for policy activity. Such evidence includes the use of comparative indicators and statistics, bibliometric assessments, and the use of innovation surveys. The forum focused on STI related evidence for support of policy, its use, issues, and current efforts that are underway.

**2018 (9<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Boosting Innovation**

The rough outlines of the EU Horizon Europe (2021-2027) and the Japanese 6<sup>th</sup> S&T Basic Plan were introduced. The discussions focused on how government can try to link and connect the stakeholders, knowledge and issues together in formulating STI policies; how to nurture friendly environments and eco-systems; the importance of openness of data and science and with the public; and the need for responsible innovation; and the provision of safety nets for citizens.



**Towards a new strategic partnership in  
Research and Innovation  
between the European Commission and the  
Government of Japan**



**Joint vision**

We, the European Commission and the Government of Japan, consider our cooperation in research and innovation to be a key component of our relations and necessary to promote the excellence of our research, increase the competitiveness of our industries and effectively address common and global societal challenges.

In line with the Joint Press Statement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> EU-Japan Summit on 7 May 2014, while reviewing past and ongoing activities, we develop a new strategic partnership in research and innovation based on reinforced dialogue and consultation, which articulates actions in five domains: frequent consultation at multiple levels, focussing on thematic cooperation in strategic areas, frameworks that facilitate collaboration, science, technology and innovation (STI) policy exchange, and support activities and public engagement, as stated below.

**Deepening strategic cooperation by frequent consultation at multiple levels**

The 2011 Agreement between the European Union and the Government of Japan on Cooperation in Science and Technology has resulted in deepening our cooperation in STI, in particular by providing a framework for regular policy consultation such as through the regular meetings of the Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Consultations in the Joint Committee have been complemented by the constructive Senior Official's Meeting in April 2014 and the productive Task Force meeting in February 2015, and have greatly been accelerated by the Summit-level talks.

We recognise the importance of resolute political will and frequent policy consultations at appropriate levels in order to consolidate the partnership and significantly enhance the breadth and intensity of future cooperation.

**Thematic approach for promoting activities in key strategic areas**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee in 2013 specified as key areas of mutual interest Critical Raw Materials, Aeronautics and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Since the last Joint Committee meeting, clear and substantial progress has been made in these three areas, with thematic dialogues and new joint projects, many of which are still in progress. We realise that specifying research and innovation areas of mutual interest is effective in encouraging cooperative activities in these areas, and thus acknowledge the importance of selecting such areas.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee in May 2015, we acknowledged the substantial research and innovation cooperation between the EU and Japan in the fields of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Aeronautics, and Materials including Critical Raw Materials (CRMs). This includes, since 2011, seven successfully launched coordinated calls (two in ICT, two in Materials/CRMs, and two in aeronautics and one in energy). Furthermore, it is planned to launch additional coordinated calls in the future. There is also an active ICT dialogue, an EU-US-Japan Trilateral CRMs dialogue and an EU-Japan working group on aeronautics research.

In addition to these areas, we have a common view on the strategic significance of increasing cooperation in the fields of health/medical research, environment, energy, and high-energy physics in the future.

### **Frameworks that facilitate collaboration**

Efforts are being made to consolidate frameworks that facilitate cooperative activities between both sides.

We confirm the importance of constantly seeking to promote opportunities for increasing mobility of researchers between Europe and Japan. We particularly welcome the Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Japan Society for the Promotion for Science (JSPS), to be signed in May 2015. This arrangement provides opportunities for Japanese researchers to pursue research collaboration with European Research Council (ERC) grantees in Europe. The EU-funded Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions also provide opportunities for increasing the mobility of researchers between Europe and Japan.

We recognise the high importance of establishing streamlined mechanisms for the joint funding of research and innovation projects, which are acceptable to both the EU and Japan, to fully exploit the potential of our cooperation. We therefore appreciate highly the scheme developed by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) in close cooperation with the European Commission to establish a process for the joint funding of projects.

### **Deepening mutual understanding on key STI policies**

We recognise the importance of extending our partnership to cover regular consultation and possible collaboration on major STI policy issues. We particularly appreciate the recent opportunities to exchange views on areas such as Open Science, and to reaffirm the usefulness of deepening mutual understanding of each other's STI policy frameworks.

### **Support activities and public engagement**

We recognise the important role of support actions, such as the Horizon 2020 National Contact Point in Japan, appointed in 2013, as well as outreach activities to promote public engagement and give further visibility to our cooperation.