



**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 22nd 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 2nd 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 3rd 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.