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The 3rd Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium

Preface

I am pleased to deliver this report on the 3rd Kobe University Symposium *Green Innovation & Life Innovation for sustainable growth and society by Japan-EU collaboration* which was held in Brussels on 6th December 2012.

The key concepts: “Green Innovation and Life Innovation” are what the Japanese Government set in their “New Growth Strategy” and they are also used in the EU’s Horizon 2020. The notions represented by the words “Green” and “Life” must be at the heart of our own lives and societies’ too; preservation of the environment and continued improvement in our day to day lives are absolutely vital if our societies are to flourish.

The role of universities in the resolution of the challenges we face, as well as the betterment of societies is more crucial than ever before. The issues we are facing in the 21st century are complex and contain multiple dimensions so that a single scientific approach is no longer realistic. We, Kobe University, are tackling these issues by promoting interdisciplinary approaches to help solve the problems facing us all as inhabitants of this planet. Kobe University is proud of the close collaboration currently taking place in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and biomedicine. The sessions in this symposium can be seen to further embody this spirit.

I hope the presentations and subsequent discussions in the symposium have brought you some ideas for closer, more effective collaboration between Japan and the EU and I believe that it will lead to sustainable growth and society.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fukuda Hideki".