

The Arc 10:00 - 12:00

“Japan-EU Education Policy Seminar Internationalisation of Higher Education in Japan and the European Union”

PROGRAMME

- 10:00 Opening Address: Dr Hideki Fukuda, President of Kobe University
- 10:20 Speech: HE Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council
- 10:35 Response speech: HE Mr Nobutake Odano, Ambassador of Japan to the European Union
- 10:40 Lecture: Mr Xavier Prats Monné, Deputy Director General, Education and Culture DG European Commission
Excellence and exchange - the value of EU-Japan academic partnerships
- 10:55 Lecture: Mr Laurent Bochereau, Acting Head of Unit, International Cooperation Policy, D/1DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission “EU - Japan S&T cooperation under the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development”
- 11:10 Lecture: Mr Kiyoshi Shimizu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan “Current Situation and Policy Challenges in Japanese Higher Education”
- 11:25 Lecture: Prof Dr Paul Van Cauwenberge, Rector of Ghent University
“University research and education within the European context”
- 11:40 Lecture: Dr Hideki Fukuda, President of Kobe University “Japan - Europe collaboration of Higher education in Internationalization - importance of open network - ”



Conferral ceremony of Doctor Honoris Causa

Dr Hideki Fukuda, President of Kobe University conferred the Doctor Honoris Causa upon President Herman Van Rompuy of the European Council in recognition of his significant contribution to Kobe University. He was also presented with a scroll on which a Haiku was written in Japanese by a prominent calligrapher, Emeritus Professor Kazuaki Uozumi of Kobe University. The Haiku is the one President Van Rompuy quoted in the speech he gave upon his visit to Kobe University April last year.



HE Mr Herman Van Rompuy

President of the European Council



Let me start by saying a very simple word. A word which is maybe not used so often in politics: thank you. And let me even try it in Japanese: *ありがとうございます* = *Dōmo arigatō!*

Indeed, I should like to thank Kobe University for bestowing this honour upon me. It is a privilege. And I should also like to thank you, Mr. President, for your kind and generous words.

I do not know for sure whether I deserve the honour. But just in case I do not, I will certainly try, during the remainder of my mandate as President of the European Council, to make sure that I do deserve the honour by the time I leave office! (*So in that case, you will have made a good investment in the future!*)

I do think it is important to energise the relationship between the European Union and Japan. We should aim to do so at all levels: politically, economically and between our civil societies and universities.

As I said during my visit to Japan in April last year, I attach a great importance to our relationship. Both on the European and on the Japanese side, we maybe tend to underestimate its potential. And this is why the work which you, as Kobe University, are doing is so important. Your European Centre in fact is the first ever overseas office of a Japanese university in Brussels, and I should like to congratulate you on that. With this opening, you create a new hub for our relationship. A new and strong knot combining all the threads that link our two societies.

The political changes in the world — the rise of China, India and other emerging economies — affect both of us. They change the political landscape, our respective relationships with the United States for instance. However, we can benefit still more than ever from a strong relationship. It remains key to our prosperity.

The summit between Japan and the EU, which was held in Tokyo in April of last year, was for me one of the most interesting international meetings of 2010. *And not only because it was an inspiration for my haikus!*

It was a privilege to meet the Emperor and the then Prime Minister Hatoyama. Later last year, at the two G20 meetings, I met Prime Minister Naoto Kan. I am looking forward to receive the Prime Minister in Brussels later this year for the

EU Japan Summit. I hope to be able to bring a strong message on behalf of the European Council.

Some of you may be less familiar with the intricacies of the Brussels system. And I know it is not easy for outsiders to grasp it! However, the same is true for political life in Washington or Tokyo.

Complexity is a feature of almost any system of government. *Except for dictatorships!* One could see the European Council of the 27 Heads of State or Government as the Union's strategy body.

This distinguishes our work from what the Commission, the Parliament and the Council are doing at a daily basis: turning legislative proposals into rules for our 500 million citizens and our millions of companies.

The work of the European Council, of a more general and political nature, is about determining the direction, about setting the course. Where do we go? And by now I can tell you from experience: to get 27 Heads of State or Government in the same direction, is no easy task!

We succeed nevertheless. All 27 share the conviction that we belong together and have to work together. It is as true in economic matters as it is in dealing with the recent events in the rest of the Arab world. And it is also true for the way we see our relationship with Japan.

I just said that we can strengthen our relationship:

- in political terms;
- in economic terms;
- and in terms of the contacts between our societies.

Let me say a brief word on each of these three subjects in turn.

First on the front of politics proper. We have a lot in common, as I said. Japan is a peace loving country. You have never used force since 1945. You are a force of stability in a region where old-style power games reappear.

Both the European Union and Japan aspire to play a stronger role on the international scene. Yet our cooperation on political issues falls well short of what it should be. We could do more together, like we already do for police training in Afghanistan, or in fighting piracy off the Somali coast. Think of working together on counterterrorism or on non-proliferation.

Another such issue is disaster relief. In Europe we have noticed with interest the recent actions taken by Japan in this respect. For instance after the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan, both during 2010. That's why one may appreciate the Japanese proposal of a Japan-EU cooperation in the field of disaster relief, the so-called "Ueta-initiative", which was tabled last month.

The second point, how to intensify our economic relationship? Even in the changing world of today, and even if we energise our political bonds, trade -- pure trade -- will remain the backbone of our relationship. An obvious way to intensify the trade between our two blocks would be a Free Trade Agreement.

The European Union is aware of Japan's strong interest in embarking on negotiating a Free - Trade Agreement. I think it would also be of interest for European businesses and consumers.

Today a High Level Group examines the possibilities and that work is still going on. Therefore it is still too early to say what the EU position will be at the next summit on the possible launch of a Free Trade Agreement process.

However, at this stage I can already make two general points. Such an upgrading of the trade relationship should be comprehensive and balanced. Comprehensive, because we

see trade in the terms of our overall political relationship. Balanced, because the kinds of barriers faced by EU and Japanese companies on the respective markets are different in nature. I will not speak in front of this audience about technical issues such as "non-tariff barriers", but this aspect should be taken into account. The benefits of abandoning tariffs should not all fall on one side. But we are open to discuss it. And I am convinced we will reach a good result together.

This brings me to the third point: the contacts between our two societies. Students, business people, travellers & tourists: the exchange of ideas and perspectives is key. And this of course is really what the Brussels European Centre of Kobe University is about.

I was pleased to learn that in the overseas institutes your University is establishing, this one here is only the second -- after the centre opened two years ago in Beijing (*which indeed, as the capital of your neighbour, may deserve a special place*.....). Therefore I take this Brussels Centre itself as a sign of your strong interest in establishing stronger relations with Europe and our Universities.

As you know, the very institution of the "University" was a European invention. Think of Bologna, Oxford, the Sorbonne, or Leuven: venerable places of learning going all the way back to the Middle Ages. And yet our universities from all over the continent are very strong global players, at the cutting-edge of innovation, and oriented toward the future.

A side remark. It is my conviction that our two societies share this unique capacity to link old experiences and ancient wisdom to the challenges of our own age. In Europe and in Japan, men and women do not only live in the present, forgetting about the past and walking blind into the future. No, we permanently build bridges from the past to the future, to allow us to step forward with confidence. This gives our societies an inner stability, an ability to deal with the many challenges and unknown elements which we face in the world of today, while keeping the core of our identity. People elsewhere may envy us for that.

The European Union welcomes the Japanese efforts of internationalisation of academic life. I was impressed to discover that your country wants to achieve, by 2020, to have 300.000 Japanese students abroad, and 300.000 foreign students in Japan. Compared to current numbers, these are certainly ambitious targets! You will thus no doubt attract more "global talent", people who can think on their own and bring new perspectives. The effect on society will be considerable.

Kobe University clearly shows this openness to the world already. By establishing this Brussels office. But also for instance by your role in the EU Institute Japan "Kansai"—the institute which it was my pleasure to visit last year.

We in the European Union have played an important role in the internationalisation of academic life. First, internally, we developed the famous "Erasmus Program" for student exchanges. Over the years, it has allowed more than 2 million students to study in another European country. More recently, we have developed a global variant: "Erasmus Mundus", which aims at enhancing international mobility.

However, too few Japanese students have benefitted so far from Erasmus Mundus. There is untapped potential and I do hope it will be explored by the younger generations.

This is how I see the possibilities for energising all the relationships between the European Union and Japan. On the political and the economic side, and at the side of our societies and universities.

I am very grateful for the work you, as Kobe University, do in this respect. And that is why I am very confident that the title

of your Conference will prove full of foresight. Today is indeed the first day of: "A new era of Japan - Europe Academic Cooperation".

HE Mr Nobutake Odano

Ambassador of Japan to the European Union



A rich civilisation and cultural heritage have accumulated in both Europe and Japan for many centuries.

The success and achievements of both nations have been achieved through the determined efforts of our descending generations and their genius. Formal and informal education, tutoring and artisanship played an indispensable role in enriching our civilisation. In today's world University education is in

particular vital .

Today, Europe and Japan enjoy respectively stable and prosperous civil societies which are based on a set of fundamental principles and values, such as plural democracy and the rule of law, human rights, freedom of speech and an open market economy.

Japan and Europe must cope with global challenges including the economic and financial crisis, climate change, humanitarian assistance, WTO trade negotiations, and an aging population. Japan and the EU have also widened and deepened their bilateral cooperation.

The most recent example is a S&T cooperation agreement, which can inspire innovation for the future. Innovation is one of the key concepts for the EU 2020 strategy for sustainable growth.

We do not have to limit our cooperation to the immediate concerns of issues in the political, economical and social fields.

Japan and the EU can compare notes on education, by facilitating academic and student exchanges, promoting academic research and the exchange of innovative ideas with the future in mind.

Today, this educational seminar, is the start of such a collaboration. Kobe University took the initiative to organise this event in collaboration with the European Union and European universities.

I hope this initiative continues.

I would like to share with you a proverb or saying that President Van Rompuy introduced at the Belgium and Japan association meeting a few weeks ago; *Keizoku ha chikaranari*. It's a saying in Japanese, which means . continuity is a source of strength or persistence is a power or practice made perfect. This saying can be applied to Japan and the EU cooperation.

Persistence is a power. I do have high hopes, that the last twenty years of EU and Japanese strategic discussions can be further added too, to ensure substantial cooperation in the future. Let us now truly un-tap the potential of Japan and the EUs strategic cooperation and friendship.

"Excellence and exchange - the value of EU-Japan academic partnerships"

Mr Xavier Prats Monné

Deputy Director General, Education and Culture
DG, European Commission



Kobe University is a cosmopolitan institution that contributes to the global community through its institutional values and by creating knowledge in a spirit of integrity and freedom. Kobe University has set itself a target of global excellence by 2015 in the fields of education, research and its contribution to society.

It is a privilege for the European Commission to take part in the

opening of their Centre here in Brussels today. It is an indication that Kobe University thinks Europe can contribute to their mission statement and to their ambitions of excellence, and if this is indeed the reason why you set up this Centre, the Commission is ready to support you in whatever way it can. We recognise Kobe University as a friend of Europe. You co-host the EU Institute in Japan, Kansai and you have also created a Jean Monnet Chair in EU economic studies. But we will support you for other reasons as well, since for us it is obvious that academic cooperation between the EU and Japan is in our mutual interest and we, the EU and Japan, must rise to the same challenges in the field of education.

Let me just remind you what our challenges are.

We all recognise the economic value to society of a strong higher education system. But recently both our societies are very much aware of how important tertiary education is, the right type of tertiary education for the future development of society. Young people must have the right skills to adapt to a world that is rapidly changing, to new markets and new technologies and to far stronger competition among high-quality graduates. We have a rapidly shrinking cohort of young people in both Japan and Europe, and yet a growing need for research-based innovation and for tertiary education achievement. Both the EU and Japan will thus need to make better use of their human capital.

For example, in Europe since 2007 we have had more women graduates than men. Women in Europe have better academic results and a lower drop-out rate from secondary education. However, this strong presence of women disappears once you enter the labour market or a professional career in universities. This is the type of challenge we have to meet if we are going to use our human capital in full.

We need to make sure we increase of the relevance of our studies, otherwise you can spend a lot of money on education for precious little result. If very highly trained university students do not use their training or their skills when they start their productive life, they can become very educated and very frustrated young people.

Hence the need for increased transparency and increased internationalisation of our academic system. As President Van Rompuy mentioned, there is a need, within the context of internationalisation, for a strong drive towards autonomy and accountability of universities, to help increase the quality of our tertiary education.

Since 2004, Japan has made a very strong push to modernise tertiary education, and since 2009 the Global 30 campaign has supported greater internationalisation by Japanese universities. The European Commission is doing the same, most recently through the Europe 2020 strategy. Within this strategy, Europe has managed to squeeze a large

number of priorities into 5 simple objectives, 5 simple headline targets that Europe has to meet by 2020. Two of those targets are directly linked with education; what is more important, none of these 5 targets that Europe has identified as being key to its future can be reached without strong efforts to support human capital through education.

We are now in a very challenging time for the European Commission and for myself. Over the next 6 months, we have to establish two things: firstly, the proposal for the new generation of education programmes in the future budgetary period after 2013; secondly, we will present a strategy for the modernisation of higher education in September this year.

Certainly, there is no way to modernise higher education without this strong drive for internationalisation and international cooperation. We will continue to encourage cooperation between institutions in the EU and Japan and I hope this Centre will be not just an outstanding example in itself, but an example that other universities in Japan and the EU will follow.

"EU-Japan S&T cooperation under the EU seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development"

Mr Laurent Bocheau

Acting Head of Unit, International Cooperation Policy,
Directorate General for Research and Innovation



EU-Japan S&T cooperation is mainly implemented through the EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), the main instrument to fund research at European level. FP7 will run until 2013 and has a budget of over 53 billion euro. FP7 is organised in 4 main specific programmes the "Cooperation" which promotes collaborative research; the "Capacity" for the enhancement of

infrastructure, "Ideas" for sponsoring mainly frontier research in Europe; and the "Marie-Curie" to promote mobility within Europe and beyond FP7 is fully open to the participation of international partners on the basis of mutual interest and benefits.

Currently, Japanese research teams participate in 44 projects and 30 Marie-Curie fellowships were provided to Japanese researchers/institutions.

4 million euro in total is the contribution made by the European Commission to Japanese research teams participating in FP7 projects.

I now would like to introduce some of the examples in which Japanese research teams are involved:

1. SYNER-G: developing new systemic methodology for both economic and social aspects in vulnerability and risk analysis. A research team of Kobe University is participating in this project.
2. CO2CARE: developing CO2 site closure assessment
3. MODHEP: This is in life science for developing systems biology for liver cancer

I hope Kobe University Brussels European Centre will help promoting the participation of Kobe University and other Japanese research entities in the current and future FPs. A new era of EU-Japan S&T cooperation is about to start. After 6 years negotiation, a S&T agreement between the EU and Japan was signed in November 2009 and is expected to enter into force shortly. The first Joint Steering Committee meeting under the auspices of the agreement is foreseen to take place in mid June in Tokyo. We have strong expectations that the entry into force of the agreement will open the avenue for strengthening our cooperation in the future.

Following the publication of the EU 2020 strategy and the need to include innovation, the Commission in the past months has been busy discussing the future of European research programmes. I now would like to introduce our ideas for the new programmes which will succeed to FP7, at present called "Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation (CSF)". The priorities of the CSF are

1. Address societal challenges; Pool efforts to tackle societal challenges that have a global dimension.
2. Support EU competitiveness; enhance the international dimension of public-private partnerships and contribute to economic trade.
3. Support excellence of research; enhance the international dimension of European Research Council, Marie Curie Actions.

The Commission has recently published a "Green paper Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding". This Green Paper launches a public consultation on the key issues to be taken into account for future EU research and innovation funding programmes, including international cooperation. We welcome your feedback and comments to this scheme.

"Current Situation and Policy Challenges in Japanese Higher Education"

Mr Kiyoshi Shimizu

Vice Minister, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology (MEXT) Japan



I will explain the following three points on Japanese higher education: 1. Circumstances surrounding the higher education in Japan; 2. Current policy challenges the Japanese government is tackling; 3. Future expectation in Japan-EU collaboration.

1. Circumstances surrounding the higher education in Japan
The entry rate for higher education in Japan has already reached universal stage, but as population

in Japan steadily declines, it would be necessary for institutions to provide education for those who have quite diverse background and views for their future.

2. Policy challenges in higher education

The Japanese government stipulated a Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education in 2008. The three fundamental issues were:

- 1) Guaranteeing and improving the quality of education; "Quality Assurance and Enhancement" system has been adopted. This is quite balanced system with prior evaluations and post facto evaluations, most of which are applicable to all kinds of universities including national, municipal and private institutions.
- 2) Formation of world-class centers of research and education
The Global COE (Center of Excellence) Program has been implemented and a new initiative to succeed the Global COE Program is under consideration.
- 3) Internationalization of Japanese universities
Considering special features for Asian countries which are different from that of the EU, we are taking initiatives in the following four elements:

I) Promotion of international exchange of students
We have more outbound students to the United States and Europe, while the inbound is mainly from Asian countries such as China and Korea.

II) Development of international cooperation between universities

On the institutional level, although the latest agreements are with Asian countries, more than 20 percent of the agreements are with Europe. There are over 50 agreements concluded between Japanese and Belgium universities.

III) Development of infrastructure to respond to globalization
New schemes are being proposed for the next fiscal year "Leading Graduate School" and "Strengthen universities' ability to expand around the world," and support for outbound and inbound of students, including very short-term visits.

IV) Regional cooperation in Asia

This initiative includes a kind of credit-transfer framework called "UMAP" with Asian and the Pacific countries", and "SEED-net" networking project which enables Japanese and Asian universities with equal footing to send competitive master-level graduate for the society and JSPS supporting schemes for high-profile students and researchers.

Furthermore, "Campus - Asia" project has been launched to promote university exchange with quality assurance and fair grading among Japan, China and Korea. JCK are preparing for launching pilot program this year.

In addition to those initiatives, various research cooperation programs are being implemented between Japan and Europe.
V) Researchers exchange between Japan and Europe
According to the survey of the MEXT, the number of researchers visiting Japan from Europe shows an increasing tendency since 2007, while the number of researchers from Japan to Europe has been leveling off. We see a tendency of so-called inward-looking attitude of Japanese young researchers.

VI) S&T cooperation between Japan and Europe
Japan Science and Technology Agency support research exchange and joint research in the fields of environment and superconductivity. Furthermore, collaborations in the fields of space (International Space Station etc), the oceans (Integrated Ocean Drilling Program etc), environment and nuclear powers (ITER etc).

VII) Japan-EU Agreement on S&T Cooperation
This Agreement was signed in November 2009. Based on the signing of this agreement, the possibility of future cooperation in such fields as realizing a low carbon society, climate change, researchers exchange, space, materials science and health/life science were discussed in a Preparatory Meeting on S&T Cooperation between Japan and the EU held in Tokyo last April. The first Japan-EU joint meeting on S&T cooperation will be held in Tokyo this year.

VIII) Japan — EU Summit

An agreement was reached particularly on strengthening cooperation on R&D in innovative technology and the promotion of cooperation in the joint statement which was made in Japan — EU Summit last April.

3. Expectation for Future Japan — EU Collaboration

Both Japan and EU have important issues in today's mature society, such as maintaining sustainable economy and social security system, adjusting to the aging society, social integration, and fierce competition in cutting-edge technology. The more close ties universities and research institutes in Japan and the EU can make, the more they will find the proximity on what they have to solve, and therefore they will ask for more collaboration with each other. The efforts such as today's symposium will be a real step on which many stakeholders including universities, research institutes, governments and civil organizations, proceed to launch good practice, share information, and make networking.

"University research and education within the European context"

Prof Dr Paul Van Cauwenberge

Rector of Ghent University



In the light of my presentation about university education and research, I applaud the efforts of Kobe University to establish its European centre. A recent study of the European University Association shows that the majority of the European university rectors sees internationalisation as the most important policy in the last 5 years. It is hard to deny that universities worldwide live in an increasingly

open world under the influence of international standards. This competitive environment brings many challenges for university education and research. It goes without saying that all of the challenges can be tackled best through international university collaborations. Since Bologna much has already been done within Europe to break isolation in this increasingly open world, by now we can speak of the European higher education area and the European research area. The true value of the event today is in my opinion that it shows that all the European efforts and developments have created a real interest within certain countries and certain institutes outside the European Union for the European higher education and research areas. And if I am not mistaken this was one of the fundamental ambitions behind it all. I therefore thank Kobe University for crystallising the interest and to make us aware of the fact that we have arrived only at the beginning of university internationalisation.

International education at Ghent University is riding on the crest of student mobility. Thanks to the Erasmus

programmes, high numbers of students and staff are going back and forth between our university and our partners in Europe. Mobility opportunities in our university have expanded to some parts of the world through the different Erasmus Mundus partnerships. Currently Ghent University is coordinating several of those partnerships. However, none of these cover Japan yet. It is massive European Union funding complimented in some cases by regional funding that makes mobility possible. I believe various rationales can be seen behind public funding on such a huge scale. Ghent University as a higher education institution benefits from staff and student mobility which requires cross border, institutional networking, leading to share objectives, curriculum, learning and teaching methods, or management practices, and recognition of qualifications to work effectively. The European mobility programmes have made us much more aware of the importance of attracting good foreign students and sending our own students abroad. It ensures transparency in degrees and sets standards in the teaching and learning process and promotes quality. I therefore praise the announcement in 2010 of the MEXT's plan to standardise student evaluation methods with universities in Japan, China and South Korea. It gives my great pleasure that Japan is leading the way in this integration of the methods to evaluate students academic achievement and certify academic credits. This possible first step towards Japan and Asian student exchange programme shows that Japan is keen on internationalising its higher education system. The opening of KUBEC might be an indication that in the future the number of Japanese students studying in the European higher education area might become the pre-standard for Japanese higher education policy makers. Since some years Ghent University notices a shift in the mobility patterns of students. It seems that mobility for a shorter period has gradually been replaced by degree mobility. Most valuable examples of degree mobility are joint programmes. My university already invested heavily in the development of joint programmes. At this moment, Ghent University coordinates 7 Erasmus Mundus master courses, 1 Erasmus Mundus joint doctorate programme and participates in 2 other master courses. We believe that these programmes combine advantages of exchange with more profound quality. In the future, my institute would like to invest even more in joint international programmes maybe with Japanese universities because now there is no Japanese partner in one of these programmes.

Regarding research, internationalisation is also important. Our university sets internationally competitive research as a major objective. In 2009, our university launched 5 multi-disciplinary partnerships in the selection of our strongest research fields. These fields include photonics, biotechnology, immunology, neuroscience and bio-informatics. At our university, international collaboration is conducted everyday with the colleagues of universities around the world working on joint research, reviewing academic papers, organising conferences and giving seminars. Only a few involve Japanese institutions in both academic and non-academic actors.

Important objective of our university as a research policy is to attract as much research funding as possible and involve our researchers in prestigious international research projects. The most relevant instrument therefore is the European framework programme. Almost 11 % of Ghent University research spending or 24 million euro annually is based upon the European framework projects. We support our researchers in writing proposals, finding best partnerships, guiding them through the selection procedures and helping to manage the current research. Furthermore, we have chosen to implement several incentive measures to stimulate our researchers to take on a role of coordinator in EU projects by giving them an appropriate supporting staff and offering them permanent positions. For our university it is important to encourage its researchers to become more connected with global research communities in their disciplines.

I hope this KUBEC opening symposium and sessions within the next few days will be fruitful to lead to staff and student mobility as well as to international joint programmes and research collaboration.

"Japan - Europe collaboration in Higher education for Internationalization – importance of open network –"

Dr Hideki Fukuda

President of Kobe University



I will focus on the internationalization of research universities in Japan. I would like to start with the international mobility of Japanese higher education in regards to historical perspective. Geographical and cultural locations have heavily influenced the development of Japanese higher education. Japan is an archipelago at the end of

Eurasia. In the olden days, crossing the ocean was costly and as a result, Japan sent highly talented persons abroad to absorb new knowledge. This was mainly to China at first and in the last one hundred and fifty years to Europe and North America. These talented individuals did not only bring new knowledge back to the country, but they also modified Japan to adapt to these knowledge. It was a very effective way for Japan to achieve higher education and handled European thoughts as well as Asian thoughts in Japanese, our mother tongue. Many historians believe higher education in the Japanese language played a key point in Japan's attainment of its modernization and democratic society in such a short time. Today this structure makes a clear regional difference in international mobility: Europe, North America and Asia. International communication and mobility are the most important key elements to promoting higher level education and research. Development of ICT is reducing communication cost dramatically. Contrary to this international mobility is yet costly.

In order for researchers and students to leave their motherland to go to study in a foreign country, it is necessary that the benefit is greater than the cost they paid.

For this reason, Japanese universities are increasing benefits and reducing costs. The main approaches to increasing benefits are: strengthening specialty, course building and career path building. The main approaches to reducing cost are: increasing the number of courses taught in English, the standardization of regulation and the informative action. It is well known that there are two types of international mobility; the horizontal relation between developed regions and the vertical relation between developed and developing region. International mobility between Japan and Europe is a typical horizontal relation. We both offer similar undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. For this reason, it is not easy for students to find more benefit than cost. As you know, cultural distance or language difference is a big problem for many foreign undergraduate students, because undergraduate courses are taught mainly in the languages of that country in both Continental Europe and Japan. If they wish to learn or experience a totally different culture and society, the greater distance is directly connected to their benefit. However, this is not the case for young researchers and Post-Doc Fellows. Research specialty is the key to international mobility. If they find a suitable place to study, it is possible for them to receive more benefit than the cost they paid. Reducing matching cost is more important for them than for the undergraduate

students.

As a university located in one of the most important port cities connecting Japan with the rest of the world, we decided to play the role of a key institute for international exchanges and collaborations in education and research and to foster individuals who have an appreciation for diverse values, a deep understanding of other cultures and excellent communication skills.

We have promoted international education with emphasis on quality. Whereby, we created various joint education programmes including a double degree program.

We also tailor our plan to regional features considering the changing roles of international research and education in the regions under growing globalization. Thus, we made regional plans for Europe, North America and Asia. Promotion of collaboration and joint research on global issues with leading universities in Europe were the main actions taken in 2005. One of these was becoming the coordinating university of a consortium "EU Institute in Japan, Kansai" with financial support from the European Commission. EUIJ consists of Osaka University, Kwansei Gakuin University and Kobe University.

Moreover, we established overseas centers in Beijing and in Brussels with an aim to promote multilateral collaboration in education and research with universities and institutions in Asia and Europe.

We opened Kobe University Brussels European Centre or KUBEC in September 2010 as a centre with the aim of promoting international collaboration between Kobe University and universities and research institutes in Europe in the fields of Humanities, Social Science, Natural Sciences and Bio-Medical Sciences in hopes that it will act as a mutual Information Centre between Japan and Europe. Our academic staff will hold international symposia and workshops with their European colleagues regularly to enhance direct human relation. We believe these activities will promote future joint research projects and increase the opportunity for younger researchers and students to study abroad.

It will also work to further promote international exchange and programmes such as double degree programs, joint doctor programs and summer seminars; there are many possibilities. As former speakers, Mr. Prats Monné, Mr. Bochereau, Mr. Vice Minister Shimizu and Professor Van Cauwenberge showed, Europe has developed international collaboration framework in education and research and European universities achieve great results in this framework. Now considerable efforts on the part of the European and Japanese Government have expanded this framework to Japan.

I believe KUBEC is capable of playing an important role in this framework. We are ready to plant the seeds of international joint research and to promote research-based education. To achieve this, academic network based on KUBEC should have an Open structure and a Linkage to Asian academic network.