



Kobe University Brussels European Centre Opening Symposium

Preface

As the President of Kobe University, it was an honour to have the opportunity to hold the commemorative symposium “A New Era of Japan — Europe Academic Cooperation” as an opening event for Kobe University Brussels European Centre.

The development of education and research in Japanese universities proceeded upon the basis of various strong academic ties forged and established between Japan and Europe. Particularly in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of joint researches, academic collaboration and exchange taking place on equal terms among researchers. These instances of educational and academic collaboration between Japanese and European universities have fundamentally been carried out on bilateral bases. However, in the course of the rapid integration of the European countries, education and research have been carried out in the form of such international frameworks as FP, the Erasmus Mundus programme, and with joint research facilities. A movement has also started in Japan to convert the form of international collaborations in education and research from a bilateral to a multilateral one.

The purpose of this symposium was to illuminate the new aspects of the developing Japan-EU academic cooperation and in this respect, I believe we have achieved this objective with the excellent presentations from the representatives of the governments and academics from both Japan and Europe. I would like to deliver my heartfelt appreciation to those who provided us enormous support and assistance in realising this symposium.

As His Excellency Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council mentioned in his speech at the beginning of the symposium, we have just made the first day of a new era of Japan — Europe academic cooperation and we will pursue every possibility in promoting fruitful and productive collaboration between Japan and Europe in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Fukuda Hideki'.

FUKUDA Hideki
President of Kobe University