



# Kobe University Brussels European Centre Newsletter



## Conferral Ceremony of Doctor Honoris Causa for Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering at Kobe University

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## ◆ NEWS

### Conferral Ceremonies of Doctor Honoris Causa were held

On October 16 at Kobe University, His Excellency Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering received a Doctor Honoris Causa from Kobe University. Dr. Pöttering was awarded the degree in recognition of his achievements during his time as President of the European Parliament, as well as his considerable contribution to education and research at Kobe University through the activities of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Following the degree conferral, Dr. Pöttering gave a memorial speech titled "Challenges for the European Union in a World of Insecurity". The speech dealt with issues the European Union is facing in this period of global instability such as immigration and refugee crises, and he emphasized that in these times, it is even more vital that the EU upholds its founding vision and principles. Approximately 100 students, staff and faculty from Kobe University attended the speech, and the following Q&A session saw active discussions between Dr. Pöttering and members of the audience.



[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_10\\_20\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_10_20_01.html)

Student Ambassador's interview:

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_11\\_15\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_11_15_01.html)

On November 24 at the Dancing House in Prague, the Czech Republic, Prof. Jiří Drahoš received a Doctor Honoris Causa from Kobe University. Prof. Drahoš was awarded the degree in recognition of his contributions to international research partnership between Japan and the Czech Republic, as well as his substantial support for our relations with Europe as a member of the Kobe University Advisory Board.



At the ceremony, President Hiroshi Takeda introduced Kobe University and its activities with Europe to the guests. He emphasized that Kobe University recognizes the importance of strengthening its activities in Central and Eastern Europe, where Japanese culture and technologies receive high levels of interest among researchers and students. Following the degree conferral, Prof. Drahoš made a speech to express his gratitude for the honorary doctorate and introduced to the guests his experiences of research collaboration with Japan.

In 2015, Kobe University organised the Overseas Advisory Board to utilise the valuable connections which it has nurtured through its international activities. We invited esteemed experts who contributed to Kobe University's academic activities from academic and governmental sectors, including Prof. Drahoš. From 2017, we also welcomed Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering as a new member.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_12\\_05\\_02.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_12_05_02.html)

### The 8th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium was held

The 8th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium "EU-Japan Initiative for Excellence- Strategic Research Partnership in Medicine, Biotechnology and Social Sciences-" was held in Brussels, Belgium on November 21, 2017. The symposium was held in

collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), where the Brussels European Office is located. Over 90 people attended the symposium, including Japanese and European officials, researchers, students and business representatives.

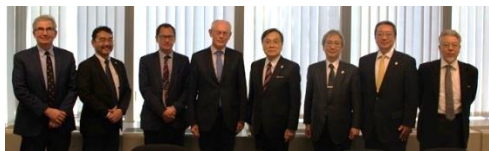


The four breakout sessions were organised under the themes of 1) Higher Education, 2) Biotechnology, 3) Migration and Community Building, and 4) Healthy and Active Ageing. Japanese and European researchers presented the latest results of cutting-edge research and discussed future opportunities for collaboration. This year, presenters from the Mission of Japan to the European Union and European Commission joined the sessions to share views of policy makers.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_12\\_05\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_12_05_01.html)

After the symposium, on November 22, Kobe University held an Advisory Board meeting at the Kobe University Brussels European Centre in Belgium. The meeting was attended by board members His Excellency Mr. Herman Van Rompuy (former President of the European Council) and Professor Roger Goodman (Warden of St Antony's College, University of Oxford).





The board members expressed their opinions on topics such as the acquisition of EU funding, the number of international students at Kobe University, and the Brussels European Centre's activities in the university offices network of Brussels.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_12\\_04\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_12_04_01.html)

## Visegrad project has launched

Kobe University was recently selected for the Visegrad University Studies Grants, and from October 2017 we are offering a course titled "The Place of V4 Countries in Europe and Japan" to study the importance of Central and Eastern Europe within the EU, connections between Japan and the region, and how this region is regarded in Japan. The course is taught with cooperation from scholars in our V4 partner universities: Jagiellonian University (Poland), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), Comenius University (Slovakia), and Charles University (Czech Republic). The classes are open to exchange students from our partner institutions, and it forms part of the Educational Program on Current Japan, a program on Japanese culture, society, science and technology taught in English and Japanese.

On October 19, Kobe University held the Visegrad Project Kick-Off Symposium "The Place of V4 countries in Europe and Japan" at Jagiellonian University (Kraków, Poland).

Alongside the Visegrad Project Kick-Off Symposium, a signing ceremony was held for a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Joint Lecture Series with Jagiellonian

University, where Kobe University Liaison Office in Kraków is located.



Kobe University is aiming to expand international exchange by sending our faculty members overseas to hold lecture series at partner institutions.

Also from October 16-20, five faculty members and three PhD students from Kobe University participated in an intensive lecture series on Contemporary Japanese Culture and Society at Jagiellonian University.



[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_11\\_06\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_11_06_01.html)

## Network meeting held at Brussels European Centre

On September 21, Kobe University held a network meeting for the UniLiON Core Group at the Kobe University Brussels European Centre (KUBEC).



In February 2017 Kobe University joined the Brussels University Liaison offices Network (UniLiON) and through this network we have been exchanging information about European Commission research and education funding schemes and finding new partner institutions.

Professor YOSHIDA Ken-ichi (Executive Director of KUBEC) gave a presentation about Kobe University's research and education initiatives and our activities in Europe.

At this meeting, chaired by Mr. Patrick Vittet-Philippe (Advisor to



KUBEC), network participants reported on developments in the latest European Commission education and research funding schemes including Horizon 2020 FP9 and Erasmus+, and participating institutions also looked into expanding their exchanges.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_10\\_04\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_10_04_01.html)

## Bilateral Kobe-Kiel Workshop held

On September 18, Kobe University held the Bilateral Kobe-Kiel Workshop at Kiel University in Germany. Kobe University and Kiel University concluded an inter-university academic partnership on May 12, 2016, and we are actively involved in research exchange in the natural and social sciences. This workshop aimed to initiate and expand international joint research between our universities. Researchers from both institutions presented cutting-edge findings in the two breakout sessions on nanoscience and international relations.



[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017\\_10\\_04\\_02.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2017_10_04_02.html)

## ◆ Research at Kobe University (2nd Half of 2017)



### Research at Kobe has launched!

A website focused on Kobe University research activities has opened on March 2017. All you need to know about our research is now on the website including news, spotlight, researchers, facilities and collaboration.



- Parasitic plants rely on unusual method to spread their seeds  
[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research\\_at\\_kobe\\_en/NEWS/news/2017\\_11\\_14\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research_at_kobe_en/NEWS/news/2017_11_14_01.html)

Biology



- A gel that does not break or dry out  
[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research\\_at\\_kobe\\_en/NEWS/news/2017\\_11\\_08\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research_at_kobe_en/NEWS/news/2017_11_08_01.html)

Chemistry, Physics, Materials Sciences, Polymer Chemistry



- Rapid climate changes across northern hemisphere in the earliest Middle Pleistocene  
[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research\\_at\\_kobe\\_en/NEWS/news/2017\\_09\\_12\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research_at_kobe_en/NEWS/news/2017_09_12_01.html)

Earth Science, Geography



- Japanese children learn to write through rhythm  
[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research\\_at\\_kobe\\_en/NEWS/news/2017\\_06\\_29\\_02.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/research_at_kobe_en/NEWS/news/2017_06_29_02.html)

Anthropology, Education, Social Behavioral Science

If you would like to know more about our research, please contact us at  
[intl-relations \(a\)office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-relations(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp)

## ◆ Past Events in 2017

5 Dec.	The CRIL-Kobe-Louvain Collaborative Workshop on Constraint Programming and SAT <a href="http://www.edu.kobe-u.ac.jp/istc-tamlab/cpsat/workshop2017/">http://www.edu.kobe-u.ac.jp/istc-tamlab/cpsat/workshop2017/</a>
28 Nov.	Brussels Student Workshop 2017: 'What are students interested in? Europe and Japan Similarity and Difference'
18-19 Nov.	International Workshop of Humanities: 'New Perspectives in Japanese Studies Part2'
2 Oct.	The 5th Bruegel - Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University conference "Europe and Japan: Monetary policies in the age of uncertainty" <a href="http://bruegel.org/events/europe-and-japan-monetary-policies-in-the-age-of-uncertainty/">http://bruegel.org/events/europe-and-japan-monetary-policies-in-the-age-of-uncertainty/</a> <a href="http://bruegel.org/events/europe-and-japan-monetary-policies-in-the-age-of-uncertainty/">http://bruegel.org/events/europe-and-japan-monetary-policies-in-the-age-of-uncertainty/</a>
21 Sep..	Meeting of the UniLION Core Group (Kobe University host)
18 May.	First Japanese Law Workshop at Kobe University Brussels European Centre(KUBEC) "EUROPEAN VIEWS ON JAPANESE LAW" <a href="http://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/ipiep/materials/flyer20170518.pdf">http://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/ipiep/materials/flyer20170518.pdf</a>

## ◆ In-house seminars and workshop at KUBEC

Information on academic seminars and workshops at KUBEC can be found at:  
[http://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/ipiep/kubec/index\\_en.html](http://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/ipiep/kubec/index_en.html)

If you are interested in participating in those events, please contact us at  
[intl-kobe\\_u\\_bxl\(a\)office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-kobe_u_bxl(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp)  
for further information.

## ◆ Social Media

Kobe University is now on Social Media!



KobeU\_Global



KobeUniversity  
Global



Kobe University

## ◆ Let us know what you think about our English website

Feedback is always welcome. Please let us know your opinion by filling in a 3-minute questionnaire about the new website: Link to [questionnaire](#)

Thank you very much for reading this newsletter. We wish you all a joyful Christmas holiday!  
Kobe University Brussels European Centre E-newsletter has been sent to you because you have shown an interest in our activities.  
If you prefer not to receive it, please send a message to us at [intl-kobe\\_u\\_bxl\(a\)office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-kobe_u_bxl(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp). Thank you.



[Kobe University Brussels European Centre](#)

Boulevard de la Plaine 5 Pleinlaan, Bruxelles 1050 Brussel

Email : [intl-kobe\\_u\\_bxl\(a\)office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-kobe_u_bxl(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp)

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