

# Kobe University Brussels European Centre Newsletter

## 9<sup>th</sup> KUBEC Symposium: A Great Success.




The 9th Kobe University Brussels European Centre - VUB Symposium  
**SMART CITIES, SECURE SOCIETIES:**  
Breakthroughs in EU-Japan Research Cooperation

24 October 2018, 9:00-18:30  
VUB Conference Centre, U-Residence, Brussels  
Boulevard General Jacqueslaan 271, 1050 Brussels.

Welcome 9:30-10:00

Parallel Sessions 10:00-13:30

- Research and Innovation for Secure Societies
- Smart Cities, Smart Societies
- Between Orient and Occident: Cultural Memory and Cultural Transfer

Networking Japanese-themed Lunch

Interactive Workshops-Brokerage Events 14:30-17:00

- Evidence-based Disaster Medicine
- Smart Technologies for Smarter, More Liveable Cities
- East meets West - Food, Culture, History

Registration and Information  
Kobe University Centre for EU Academic Cooperation  
<https://bit.ly/2KCCZ4z>  
email: [intl-kobe\\_u\\_box@office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-kobe_u_box@office.kobe-u.ac.jp)



## INDEX

- News
- Research at Kobe University (2nd half of 2018)
- Past Events in 2018
- In-house seminars and workshop at KUBEC
- Social Media
- Let us know what you think about our English website

## ◆ NEWS

### The 9<sup>th</sup> Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium was held

On October 24 the 9th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium was held in Brussels, Belgium, under the title “Smart Cities, Secure Societies: Breakthroughs in EU and Japan Research Cooperation”. The symposium was attended by over 120 people including Japanese and EU government officials, researchers, students and businesspeople.

Forty speakers representing leading universities from Belgium, France,

Germany, Georgia, Poland, and the UK, as well as officials from the European Commission and the Japanese government, shared experiences, presented projects and discussed initiatives to strengthen research cooperation. In total, a record 110 participants attended the symposium, including Japanese and EU officials, researchers, students, and representatives from embassies and industry.

Chaired by Prof. Ken-ichi Yoshida (Executive Director of KUBEC), the symposium opened with greetings from Professor Hiroshi Takeda (Kobe University President),

expressing his expectations for enhancing research collaboration on the topics of common societal challenges and technological innovation taking place in the EU and Japan. After his remarks, Prof. Dr. Romain Meeusen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel Vice-Rector), H.E. Mr. Kazuo Kodama (Ambassador of Japan to the EU), and Mr. Patrick Child (Deputy Director-General, DG RTD, European Commission) highlighted key opportunities for strengthening collaboration under Horizon 2020 and the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement concluded on 17 July 2018.



Parallel sessions presented examples of successful cooperation in highly topical areas, including ‘Security challenges in a changing world’ and ‘Disaster-resilient societies’; ‘Smart Cities’ focusing on sustainable energy, robotics and intelligent mobility; and ‘Between Orient and Occident’ covering issues of cultural memory and cultural transfer.



The afternoon was devoted to three workshops and brokerage events on ‘Evidence-based disaster medicine’; ‘Rethinking mobility for smarter and more liveable cities’; and ‘Food, culture and history: a cultural anthropology of East-West exchanges’. These highly focused events provided opportunities

for in-depth discussions between EU and Japanese partners, with the aim of shaping joint research projects in response to Horizon2020 calls.

This symposium illustrated, once again, Kobe University’s active presence in Brussels, in partnership with the VUB and provided a meaningful opportunity for academic dialogue between participants from the EU and Japan.

After the symposium, on October 31, a delegation led by Patrick Child (Deputy Director-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission) visited Professor Matsuto Ogawa (Executive Vice President in Charge of Research and Industry-University Cooperation) in Kobe.

Following discussion among them about participation in European research funding scheme, Mr. Child was introduced a 3-year initiative to develop an airflow control system based on AI sensors that detect the movement of people and air currents. During his visit, he showed great interest in Kobe University international collaboration initiatives and joint research projects with Europe.



We are looking forward to your participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium in autumn 2019.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018\\_11\\_02\\_02.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_02_02.html)

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018\\_11\\_06\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_06_01.html)

**P**resident Takeda visits University of Oxford

On October 22, Kobe University President Hiroshi Takeda led a delegation to the University of Oxford. The delegation comprised Kobe University members Professor Kiyomitsu Yui (Executive Assistant to the President in Charge of International Collaboration), Professor Hiroshi Okumura (Dean of the Graduate School of Humanities) and Professor Hiroko Masumoto (former Dean of the Graduate School of Humanities).

Kobe University and the University of Oxford have strong connections in research and student exchange. In 2011 both sides established the Kobe Oxford Japanese Studies Programme, under which the Kobe University Faculty of Letters accepts all second-year undergraduate students from the Japanese Studies Department, Faculty of Oriental Studies at the University of Oxford for a one-year program.



This was followed by a meeting in Hertford College with Mr. Will Hutton (Principal of Hertford College). A signing ceremony then took place to renew an agreement for academic exchange between Hertford College and Kobe University.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018\\_11\\_09\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_09_01.html)



## Kobe University Overseas Advisory Board meeting held in Brussels

On October 23 Kobe University held an Overseas Advisory Board meeting at KUBEC. The meeting was attended by Board members His Excellency Mr. Herman Van Rompuy (former President of the European Council), Professor Roger Goodman (Warden of St Antony's College, University of Oxford) and Professor Jiří Drahoš (former President of the Czech Academy of Sciences).

The meeting was chaired by Professor Ken-ichi Yoshida (Executive Director of KUBEC) and followed by presentations on Kobe University's SDGs initiatives and international exchange activities during this academic year from Professor Matsuto Ogawa (Executive Vice President in Charge of Research and Industry-University Cooperation) and Professor Noriyuki Inoue (Executive Vice President in Charge of International Exchange) respectively. Kobe University Brussels European Centre Advisor Patrick Vittet-Philippe then reported on the Brussels office activities for this academic year.



The three Board members offered their opinions on the establishment and management of overseas offices, international student numbers at Kobe University, initiatives to increase the amount of international co-authored papers and performance evaluation of faculty members. Their thoughtful evaluations included comparisons with their own institutions.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018\\_11\\_02\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_02_01.html)

## Workshop on cultural memory and cultural transfer held in Brussels

On October 25 and 26 a workshop was held at the Kobe University Brussels European Centre (KUBEC) on the theme of "Japan - Georgia - Western Europe: Cultural Memory and Cultural Transfer".



In September 2017 Kobe University concluded an academic exchange agreement with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) in Georgia. Kobe University was the first Japanese partner university of TSU and this enabled us to bring together TSU and other universities in Europe that are already involved in active exchange with Kobe University.

The workshop was organised by Professor Hiroko Masumoto (Graduate School of Humanities). From Georgia, five academics and government representatives for education, science, culture and foreign affairs attended, with researchers from other European partner universities including University of Trier.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018\\_11\\_22\\_02.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_22_02.html)

## Joint seminar on "Technological change and its impact on the labour market"

On November 15, an academic seminar on "Technological change and its impact on the labour market" was held at Kobe University. This event was jointly organised with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).



The seminar introduced AI technologies and the impact on labour markets, with comparisons between Japan and Europe. From Kobe University, Professor Kazufumi Yugami (Social Science Department, Organisation of Advanced Science and Technology) and Professor Zhi-Wei Luo (Graduate School of System Informatics) gave talks on their research in the areas of labour economics and robotics.

Kobe University has been strengthening cooperation with the EESC since the 2005 founding of the [EU Institute in Japan, Kansai \(EUIJ-Kansai\)](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_22_01.html), an EU-funded consortium headed by Kobe University.

This year's seminar marks the next stage for collaboration between Kobe University and the EESC.

[http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018\\_11\\_22\\_01.html](http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2018_11_22_01.html)

## ◆ Research at Kobe University (2nd half of 2018)



- [Neural inflammation plays critical role in stress-induced depression](#)

Epidemiology, Public Health



- [The stick insects that survive being eaten by birds](#)

Biology, Plant Sciences, Entomology



- [Balloon-borne telescope looks for cosmic gamma rays](#)

Astronomy, Material Science



- [How rice plants cope with flooding](#)

Earth Science/ Geography

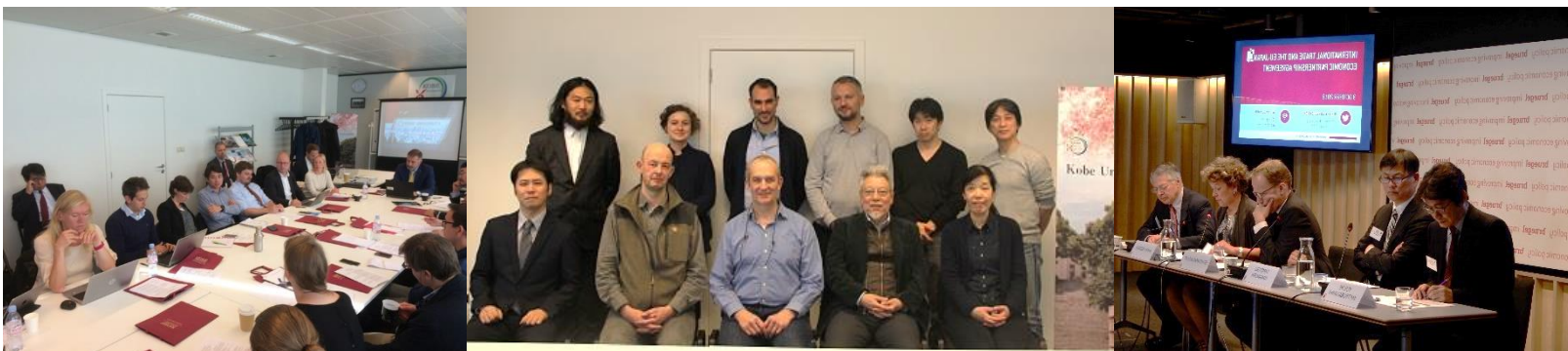
## Research at Kobe

All you need to know about our research is now on the website including news, spotlight, researchers, facilities and collaboration.

If you have any questions about research news, please contact us at  
[intl-relations \(a\)office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-relations@office.kobe-u.ac.jp)

## ◆ Past Events in 2017-2018

5-26 Oct.	<a href="#">International Workshop on Humanities "Japan-Georgia-Western Europe: Cultural Memory and Cultural Transfer"</a>
3 Oct.	<a href="#">The 6th Bruegel - Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University conference Europe and Japan: Monetary policies in the age of uncertainty</a>
14 Mar.	<a href="#">International Seminar on Integration of Spatial Computable General Equilibrium and Transport Modelling</a>
5 Dec.	<a href="#">The CRIL-Kobe-Louvain Collaborative Workshop on Constraint Programming and SAT</a>
24 Nov.	<a href="#">Brussels Student Workshop 2017 'What are students interested in? Europe and Japan Similarity and Difference'</a>
18 Nov.	<a href="#">New Perspectives in Japanese Studies Part 2</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@office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-kobe_u_bxl@office.kobe-u.ac.jp)  
for further information.

## ◆ Social Media

Kobe University is now on Social Media!



KobeU\_Global



KobeUniversity  
Global



Kobe University



kobe\_university

Happy New Year from our  
official mascot 'Shindai-Uribo'  
on Social Media!



## Kobe University Photo Contest –Winners Announced!!

“#kobeuniversity” “#神戸大学” and “#神大うりぼー”



## ◆ 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 winter 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@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@office.kobe-u.ac.jp)  
Copyright © 2017 Kobe University. All Rights Reserved.



'Kobe-Luminarie'  
Kobe City Christmas Illumination