



Kobe University Brussels European Centre Newsletter



10th Anniversary KUBEC Symposium: Huge Success.




10th Anniversary Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium
Organised jointly with Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**Open Science, Evolving Societies:
New Horizons for EU-Japan Research**

22 October 2019, 8:45-18:30
VUB Conference Centre, U-Residence
Boulevard General Jacqueslaan 271, 1050 Brussels

Registration 8:45-9:15
Welcome addresses 9:15-10:00
Parallel sessions 10:00-13:30

- EU-Japan EPA and SPA: joining forces for a rule-based international economic order
- Food system for quality, safety and functionality
- Preserving the past, embracing the future: a new era for cultural heritage

Japanese networking lunch 13:30-14:30
Interactive workshops/brokerage events 14:30-17:00

- New horizons in economic research
- Food research in tradition and future
- Towards a holistic approach to cultural heritage research

Closing remarks 17:00-17:15
Networking reception and drinks 17:15-18:30

Information and registration
Kobe University Centre for EU Academic Cooperation
bit.ly/31RG070
intl-kobe_u_bxl@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

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◆ NEWS

The 10th Anniversary Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium was held

On October 22 the 10th Anniversary Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium was held in Brussels, Belgium, under the title “Open Science, Evolving Societies: New Horizons for EU-Japan Research”. The symposium was attended by about 140 people including Japanese and EU government officials, researchers, students and business people.

Chaired by Professor Kazunari Sakai (Executive Director of KUBEC), the symposium opened with greetings from Professor Hiroshi Takeda (Kobe University President), Professor Dr. Romain Meeusen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel Vice-Rector for Internationalisation), H.E. Mr. Kazuo Kodama (Ambassador of Japan to the EU), and Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet (Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission). All highlighted the importance of and their hopes for the SPA (Strategic Partnership Agreement).



academic dialogue between participants from the EU and Japan.

In addition, KUBEC was presented with the Kobe University President's award on October 17 in recognition of its international collaboration efforts in Europe, including the annual Brussels symposium.



We are looking forward to your participation in the 11th anniversary symposium in autumn 2020.

https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2019_11_07_02.html

President Takeda visited KU Leuven

On October 21, Kobe University President Hiroshi Takeda led a delegation to KU Leuven in Belgium. The delegation comprised Kobe University members Professor Matsuto Ogawa (Executive Vice President in Charge of Research and Information Management), Professor Masahiko Yoshii (Executive Vice President in charge of International Exchange and Evaluation), Professor Hiroko Masumoto (Vice President in charge of International Education and International Collaboration), Professor Ken-ichi Yoshida (Executive Director of the Centre for EU Academic Collaboration) and Professor Kazunari Sakai (Executive Director of KUBEC).

Kobe University and KU Leuven have formed strong ties through student exchange since 2010. KU Leuven also conducts double degree programmes

with Kobe's Graduate School of Economics and Graduate School of Intercultural Studies.

The aim of this visit was to renew the existing agreement in addition to implementing a new student and faculty exchange scheme between each university's Faculty and Graduate School of Law.

At the pre-signing luncheon, both universities discussed how they could continue to work together.



https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2019_11_07_05.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) and Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering (former President of European Parliament).



The meeting was chaired by Professor Kazunari Sakai (Executive

Parallel sessions were organised under the themes of 1. The EU-Japan SPA and EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement), 2. Food technology, and 3. Cultural heritage. Researchers and policy makers presented the latest results of cutting-edge research and policy initiatives.



The afternoon was devoted to three open interactive workshops under the themes of each session to discuss plans for future joint research projects between EU and Japanese partners.



This symposium illustrated Kobe University's active presence in Brussels, in partnership with the VUB and provided a meaningful opportunity for

Director of KUBEC). Professor Matsuto Ogawa (Executive Vice President in Charge of Research and Information Management) made a presentation on the various research and industry collaboration activities carried out this past academic year. This was followed by Professor Masahiko Yoshii (Executive Vice President in Charge of International Exchange and Evaluation) reporting on the internationalization of education. Kobe University Brussels European Centre Advisor Patrick Vittet-Philippe then reported on the activities of the Brussels office this year.

The two Board members offered their opinions on the importance of strengthening connections and boosting cooperation with European governmental organisations. Their thoughtful evaluations included comparisons with their own institutions.



https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2019_11_07_01.html

Visit from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

On October 29, Mr. Pierrick Fillon-Ashida (senior policy officer in charge of Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation with Japan at the European Commission's Directorate-General for

Research and Innovation) visited Kobe University to have meetings with Professor Hiroshi Takeda (Kobe University President) and Professor Hisashi Tamaki (Dean of the Graduate School of System Informatics), and to see several of Kobe University's research facilities.

Mr. Fillon-Ashida exchanged opinions about how Japan can increase its participation in European research and innovation funding initiatives such as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe with President Takeda.

Professor Tamaki introduced Kobe University's latest "Smart City" research initiatives and discussed Kobe University's low energy technological developments to reduce CO2 emissions.

After the meetings, Mr. Fillon-Ashida visited KUHIMM (Kobe University Human Intestinal Microbiota Model) and the Innovative BioProduction Kobe project.



https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2019_11_07_06.html

Workshop on Rule of Law, Democracy and Constitutionalism held in Brussels

On October 31 and November 1 a workshop was held at the Kobe University Brussels European Centre

(KUBEC) on the theme of "The rule of Law, Democracy and Constitutionalism: Dialogue between Japan and Europe".

Constitutionalism in Japan and Europe, including the principles of the rule of law and democracy, has begun to waver in recent years. The proposed amendment of the Constitution in Japan and a surge of populism due to the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe are typical examples.

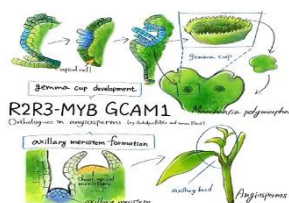
The workshop was organised by Professor Noriyuki Inoue (Graduate School of Law) with the aim of reconsidering the normative contents of the fundamental principles of Constitutionalism- including the rule of law, democracy and the guarantee of basic human rights.

Professor Masahiko Yoshii (Executive Vice President in charge of International Exchange and Evaluation), in addition to researchers from other universities in Japan, Germany, Austria, Poland and Italy attended this workshop.



https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2019_11_18_04.html

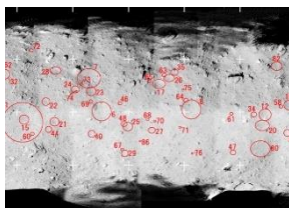
◆ Research at Kobe University (2nd half of 2019)



Research team illuminates system by which plants have formed secondary buds since ancient times

[Research News](#)

Botany, Molecular Genetics



Impact crater data analysis of Ryugu asteroid illuminates complicated geological history

[Research News](#)

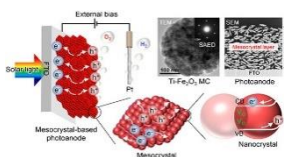
Cosmology, Space/Planetary Science



Sensory and chemical analyses of the odor of newborn babies' heads suggests importance in facilitating bonding and care-giving behaviors

[Research News](#)

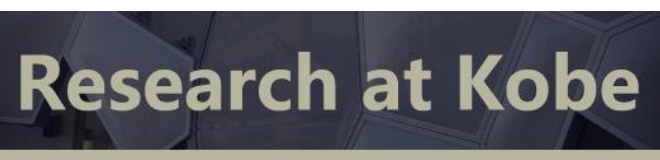
Biology, Psychology



Breakthrough in clean energy production: efficient hydrogen conversion achieved through solar water splitting using hematite mesocrystal-based photoanodes

[Research News](#)

Photoscience, Nuclear Physics



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(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp)

◆ Past Events in 2019

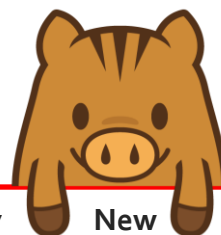
29 Nov.	Brussels Student Workshop 2019
31 Oct.- 1 Nov.	International workshop on the Rule of Law, Democracy and Constitutionalism: Dialogue between Japan and Europe Programme
28-30 Aug.	International Workshop on Dark Matter Searches 2019 Programme

◆ 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

If you are interested in participating in these 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.



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

◆ Social Media

Kobe University is now on Social Media!



[KobeU Global](#)



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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 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(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp). Thank you.



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