



Kobe University Brussels European Centre Newsletter



The 11th KUBEC Symposium: A Successful 'Hybrid' Event Reconnects EU and Japanese Researchers




The 11th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium
Organised jointly with Vrije Universiteit Brussel
**Green Horizons, Sustainable Futures:
EU-Japan Research for
Climate-Prepared, Resilient Societies**
20 October 2021, 9:00-17:30
VUB Conference Centre, U-Residence, Brussels

Parallel Sessions and Workshops/Brokerage Events:

- Towards a Global Green Economy
- Emerging Breakthrough Technologies for Climate Solutions
- Enabling Resilient, Climate-Prepared Societies: the Role of Social Sciences and Humanities

For Full Programme,
Information and registration
Kobe University Centre for
EU Academic Cooperation
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intl.kobe_u_bxl@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

◆ NEWS

The 11th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium

On 20 October the 11th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium took place on the highly topical theme of 'Green Horizons, Sustainable Futures: EU and Japan Research for Climate-Prepared, Resilient Societies'.

Jointly organised with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), with the support of the University of Kent the symposium was held in a 'hybrid' format, with a core in-person meeting in Brussels attended by some 90

participants from Belgium, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, Portugal, Poland and Taiwan. Allowing researchers and participants to reconnect in person and virtually, the symposium was also webcast live for the first time, attracting an additional 80 followers from Japan and Europe. Attendees included EC and Japanese government officials, researchers, and Japanese universities, think tanks and industries.

Kobe University President Masato Fujisawa, VUB Rector Caroline Pauwels, Japanese Ambassador to the EU Yasushi Masaki and EC Deputy Director-General, DG

Contents

- News (KUBEC Symposium, Kobe University Brussels Workshop, Visegrad Project, Visit of Estonian Delegation)
- Research at Kobe University (2nd half of 2021)
- Kobe University Research Highlights -enhancing collaboration with Europe-
- Social Media
- Let us know what you think about our English website

Research and Innovation Signe Ratso gave the opening remarks. They stressed



the need to reinforce EU-Japan cooperation in R&I, particularly in the

context of the climate emergency. They also outlined the joint commitment of Japan and the EU in leading international efforts toward a net-zero global economy by 2050, illustrated by the signing in May of the EU-Japan Green Alliance, and the key role of research and innovation in achieving this goal.

Two keynotes by Paulo Ferrão, Professor at Lisbon University and member of the Mission Board on Smart and Climate Neutral Cities, and by Elina



Bardram, Director at DG for Climate Action, set the tone for the following high-level presentations given by 35 speakers in the interconnected areas of economics, technology and social sciences and humanities.



Three parallel sessions, followed by interactive workshops and brokerage events, showcased the latest research and policy initiatives, and provided a platform to explore future collaboration opportunities.

The symposium benefitted from an unprecedented level of support from the EC, represented by DDG Ratso, Director Bardram and half a dozen officials, as well as the Japanese Mission, with the participation of Ambassador Masaki, Deputy Head of Mission Fujiwara and two senior Counsellors.

Also worth noting was the participation of industry, represented by Mr. Naohide

Fuwa, Vice-President for Research at Toyota Motors Europe. TME, a key participant in EU research currently involved in 17 EU projects, also presented the experimental Mirai hydrogen car at the event.



This symposium was the first major event that KUBEC was able to organise since the start of the pandemic. It offered participants a welcome opportunity to reconnect in person and online, and reconfirmed the importance of actively renewing and strengthening international academic exchanges in these still challenging circumstances.

Kobe University will continue to leverage KUBEC as a base for promoting stronger academic and research collaborations between Japan and Europe.

Video Archive: <https://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/ipiep/materials/videoarchive20211020.pdf>

Related Webpage: https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2021_10_29_01.html

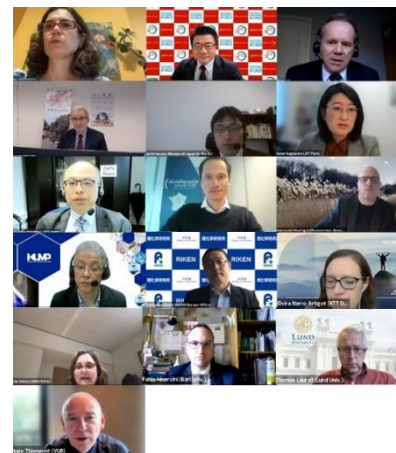
Workshop and Brokerage event on EU-Japan Research Collaboration

On 21 October, a follow-up KUBEC workshop on 'New Opportunities for EU-Japan Research & Innovation Cooperation' was held online. This event was jointly organized with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with support from Waseda University and Kansai University, and in conjunction with the UniLiON network. The event aimed to promote international joint research projects through both EU and Japanese research funding schemes, including Horizon Europe. It attracted more than

80 participants including UniLiON members, researchers, students and government officials from Europe and Japan.

Professor Toshihiro Kawabata, Kobe University Executive Vice President in charge of Research, Social Co-Creation and Innovation, gave an opening address followed by an opening remark by Ms. Maria Cristina Russo, Director for Global Approach and International Cooperation in R&I, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission. Afterwards, speakers from EU and Japan, including representatives of the European Commission, the Mission of Japan to the EU, Japanese funding agencies, universities, research institutions and industry. Speakers introduced the latest funding opportunities for joint EU-Japan projects, discussed best practices, identified challenges to overcome, and exchanged their vision on how to strengthen future cooperation between EU and Japan.

Kobe University will keep promoting cooperation with Europe in the fields of education and research by continuing to hold various events like this.



Related Webpage: https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2021_11_04_02.html

Visegrad Project completed

On 23 July, Kobe University held the Visegrad Project Concluding Conference "Comparing Responses to Global Transformations - Regime Changes in the V4 and Japan" online.

Kobe University was selected for the Visegrad Grants in 2020, and has consequently been offering a new course since October 2020 on social structure and global society post-Corona. This involves comparing aspects of Japan with those of countries in Central and Eastern Europe, which have experienced systemic changes and are dealing with globalization. The course is run in cooperation with researchers from the following partner universities in the V4 countries: Jagiellonian University (Poland), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), Comenius University (Slovakia), and Charles University (Czech Republic).

This conference was held to conclude the project, and was attended by Professor Emeritus Kiyomitsu Yui and Professor Yoshihiko Shiratori from the Graduate School of Humanities, participating researchers from each V4 partner university, and students who had taken the course.

In the first session, Professor Emeritus Yui reviewed the main points of the classes given so far, which was followed by a lively discussion among the researchers. In the second session, the participants discussed the possibility of applying for a new project or other research grants to further develop the

academic exchange conducted up until now, and also



traded opinions on the possibility of producing a publication as an outcome of this project.

Kobe University was also selected to receive the Visegrad Grants in 2017 and has subsequently been actively engaged in international exchange activities, including the implementation of other projects, with partner universities in Central and Eastern Europe. Kobe University will continue to promote stronger cooperation in education and research between Japan and these countries.

Related Webpage: https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2021_07_30_03.html

Estonian Delegation of Innovators Study Tour to Brussels had a meeting with KUBEC

On 8 December in Brussels, Kobe University Brussels European Centre (KUBEC) organised a hybrid meeting with an Estonian delegation led by Eve Päärendson (Entrepreneurship and Innovation Liaison Officer of Enterprise Estonia). The event was hosted at the Estonian Permanent Representation in Brussels, with online participation from Kobe, and moderated by Patrick Vittet-Philippe, Advisor to KUBEC. The delegation consisted of representatives of Estonian universities, including Tallinn University, University of Tartu and Tallinn University of Technology, as well as participants from industry and innovative SMES



Prof. Ken-ichi Yoshida, Executive Director of the Centre for EU Academic Collaboration,

introduced Kobe University as a key research and innovation partner for EU researchers. Recalling the 2018 visit to Kobe by a delegation from TalTech, he presented Kobe University's international strategy and its focus on Europe, KUBEC's role and activities, as well as the close relationship between Kobe University and its start-ups. This was followed up by a presentation with video by Ms Eri Anno, Research Development Manager, on Kobe University's 7 flagship research projects.



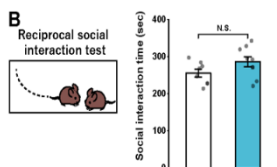
For the VUB, Prof. Hugo Thienpont Vice-Rector for Innovation and Industry Relations, gave an inspiring and hands-on presentation on "Universities as Drivers for Innovation: Challenges, Solutions and Best Practices to Valorize Research". Finally, Dr. Toshiyasu Ichioka, RIKEN Director for Europe, highlighted the role of RIKEN as a research leader in Japan and a key player in R&I cooperation with Europe



Each presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session in which the participants exchanged useful information that may lead to future collaboration between the parties.

Kobe University will continue to promote further cooperation with Estonia in education and research.

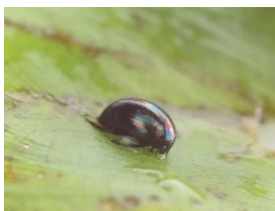
◆ Research at Kobe University (2nd half of 2021)



New genetic driver of autism and other developmental disorders identified

[Research News](#)

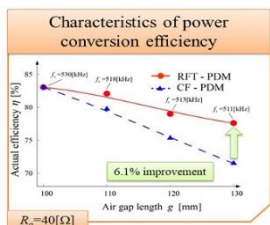
Physiology, Cell Biology



The thrilling discovery of a beetle's active escape through a frog's body

[Research News](#)

Ecology, Agrobioscience



New solution for low cost, light-weight and compact wireless transfer devices

[Research News](#)

Electronics Engineering



Interactive floor system makes tracks in encouraging children's play

[Research News](#)

Science Education

Research at Kobe

Everything you need to know about our research is featured on the Research at Kobe website, including the latest press releases as well as articles on our researchers, facilities and collaborations.

If you have any questions about research news, please contact us at:
intl-relations@office.kobe-u.ac.jp



Now on YouTube: Kobe University Research Highlights -enhancing collaboration with Europe-

We are delighted to announce that a new video series entitled “Kobe University Research Highlights -enhancing collaboration with Europe-” is now available on [Kobe University’s Official YouTube Channel](#). Each of the featured centres/projects corresponds to one of the 6 research clusters of HORIZON Europe. Please feel free to share the videos if you enjoyed them. You can find out more about the introduced projects in the [brochure](#).

All project leaders are eager to develop further collaboration with institutions and researchers in Europe. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Research Management who will be pleased to match you up with Kobe University researchers.

Office of Research Management: gksh-ura@research.kobe-u.ac.jp

◆ Social Media

Keep up to date with Kobe University on the following platforms:



KobeU_Global



KobeUniversityGlobal



Kobe University



kobe_university

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from
Kobe University’s
official mascot ‘Shindai-
Uribo’ !



◆ Let us know what you think about our English website

Feedback is always welcome. Please let us know your thoughts on our [English-language website](#): Link to [questionnaire](#)

Thank you very much for reading this newsletter. We wish you all a joyful and safe winter holiday!

This Kobe University Brussels European Centre E-newsletter has been sent to you because you have shown an interest in our activities. If you would prefer not to receive it, please send a message to us at intl-kobe_u_bxl@office.kobe-u.ac.jp. Thank you.



[Kobe University Brussels European Centre](#)

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