

# Kobe University Newsletter

## 12th KUBEC Symposium

**-Record audience shares insights into Ocean Research-**



The 12th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium  
Organised jointly with Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
with the support of the University of Kent

### Blue Economy, Green Horizons: EU-Japan Research for Healthy, Sustainable Seas and Oceans

18 October 2022, 9:15-17:30  
VUB Conference Centre, U-Residence, Brussels

Parallel Sessions and Workshops

- 'Blue Economy': Global Trade Flows, Environmental Issues and Governance of the Seas
- Oceans of the Future: Advances in Marine and Maritime Sciences—New Technologies for New Horizons
- Seas, Science and Societies: Building Awareness, Engaging Communities



For Full Programme,  
Information and registration  
Kobe University Brussels European Centre  
<http://tiny.cc/j3suz>  
mailto:kobe\_u\_bv@office.kobe-u.ac.jp



## Contents

- News
- Research at Kobe
- Social Media
- English website feedback
- Notice from Institute for Promoting International Partnerships

### ◆ NEWS

#### The 12th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium

On 18 October, the 12th Kobe University Brussels Symposium took place on the highly topical theme of “Blue Economy,

Green Horizons: EU-Japan Research for Healthy, Sustainable Seas and Oceans”.



Jointly organized with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the symposium provided a high-level forum to discuss key issues and present the latest developments in Ocean research in the EU and Japan, from the interconnected angles of economics and governance,

technology and innovation, and social sciences.

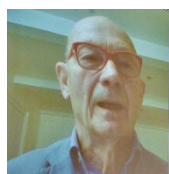


The first fully in-person event in three years, it was an exciting success in terms of attendance (a record 130 participants), speaker participation (also a record 42 presenters) and quality of exchanges.



Chaired by Professor YOSHIDA Ken-ichi, Director of KUBEC, the opening session featured Kobe University President FUJISAWA Masato, VUB Rector Jan Danckaert, Japanese Ambassador to the EU MASAKI Yasushi, and EC Director General (Acting) for Research and Innovation Ms. Signe Ratso. Speakers outlined the opportunities offered by ocean research in strengthening EU-Japan cooperation, as well as the breakthrough which a possible Association of Japan to Horizon Europe, now under discussion, may represent for EU and Japanese researchers.

They were joined by senior experts from universities and research organizations, industry and the innovation community, think-tanks and the media from Japan, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the UK.



Parallel sessions covered key topics such as 'Blue economy': Global Trade Flows, Environmental Issues and Governance of the Seas; Oceans of the Future: Advances in Marine and Maritime Sciences: New Technologies for New Horizons; and Seas,



Science and Societies: Building Awareness, Engaging Communities. Corresponding workshops in the afternoon allowed fruitful dialogue on key issues like green shipping, 'blue-green' hydrogen energy, marine robotics, fight against marine pollution, and security in the East China Sea.

Highlights included, for the first time, two keynotes, introduced by Kobe University Executive Vice President NAKAMURA Tamotsu. Award-winning film-maker Michael Pitiot's inspiring presentation, illustrated by stunning footage from his documentaries, outlined the key role of media in engaging audiences with scientific and environmental issues. Pascal Lamy, Former WTO Director



General, and Chairman of the Horizon Europe Mission Board Restore our Seas and Waters by 2030 gave a broad overview of the need for global cooperation in protecting ocean environments, and presented the Digital Twin of the Ocean – an exciting new tool for international research on oceans.

This 12th symposium confirmed the key role of Kobe University and its Brussels European Centre in promoting high-level policy dialogue and fostering stronger academic and research collaborations between Japan and Europe.



Related article: [https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022\\_11\\_02\\_01.html](https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022_11_02_01.html)

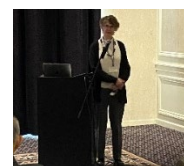
## Kobe University Liaison Office in Seattle holds its Opening Ceremony and 2nd Symposium



On October 31, an opening ceremony for the Kobe University Liaison Office in Seattle (KULOS) was held in Seattle. KULOS is Kobe University's new North American office, established thanks to the cooperation of Hyogo Prefecture

and the Hyogo International Association.

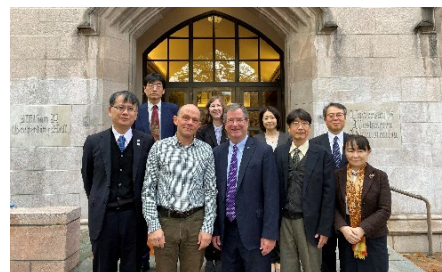
Attendees at this celebratory event included HBCC Director KOBAYASHI Junko, Kobe University Executive Vice President NAKAMURA Tamotsu, Director SHIRAI Yasuhito (of the American Division of the Institute for Promoting International Partnerships), Director KAWAI Naruo (of the Global Education Center), Project Professor KAWAI Hiroshi (Research Center for Inland Seas, Kobe University) and Director IMURA Takashi (of the International Division).



On the day after the opening ceremony, the 2nd KULOS Symposium "Ocean Research and its Application for a Sustainable Society" was held at the Graduate Hotel Seattle. The

symposium was preceded by a networking lunch, which was attended by over 50 people, including the Consul General of Japan in Seattle INAGAKI Hisao, Kobe City Mayor HISAMOTO Kizo.

The symposium was chaired by Director SHIRAI, with opening remarks from Executive Vice President NAKAMURA and Professor Mari Ostendorf (Vice Provost for Research, University of Washington), followed by a presentation on the title given by 4 speakers.



During their visit to the U.S., Executive Vice President NAKAMURA, Director SHIRAI, Director KAWAI Naruo and Director IMURA also visited the University of Washington to confirm mutual intentions to expand academic exchange agreements and promote student and faculty exchange. We will continue to actively utilize the Seattle base to further strengthen its ties with universities in North America.

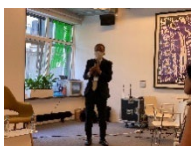
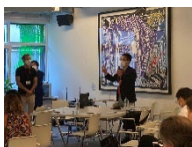
Related article: [https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022\\_11\\_16\\_01.html](https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022_11_16_01.html)

## Kobe Opportunities for EU-Japan Research Collaboration

On July 5, the event “Kobe Opportunities for EU-Japan Research Collaboration”, jointly hosted by RIKEN and Kobe University, was held in Brussels, Belgium. Over 40 people attended this international event.



The program consisted of two sessions: “Kobe as a leading base for computational sciences” and “Place-based innovation through international cooperation”.



This event was the first face-to-face event held by Kobe University's Institute for Promoting International Partnerships since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Related article: [https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022\\_07\\_29\\_01.html](https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022_07_29_01.html)

## The 7th Kobe University-Beijing Foreign Studies University Joint Symposium

On December 2, the 7<sup>th</sup> Kobe University – Beijing Foreign Studies University Joint Symposium was held as a hybrid in-person/online event. The theme of this year's symposium was “Japanese Studies in the Post-Pandemic Era”.

This symposium series began in the 2015 academic year as one of the activities of the Kobe University and Beijing Foreign Studies University International Collaborative Research Base.



The symposium began with opening remarks given by Prof. ZHOU Yifu (Director of the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University) and Prof. NAKAMURA Tamotsu (Executive Vice President in Charge of International Affairs, Kobe University). Next, five researchers from Japan and China gave presentations and answered questions from a wide range of perspectives in the humanities and social sciences.

This symposium covered a topical theme of great interest to the participants, leading to active exchanges of research. We hope this symposium will further develop the cooperative relationship between the two universities.

Related article: [https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022\\_12\\_13\\_01.html](https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022_12_13_01.html)

## Former European Council President delivers special lecture at Kobe University



On July 14, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, a former president of the European Council who has an honorary doctorate from Kobe University, visited our university to give a one-hour special lecture for the students. He spoke on the theme of “The Japan-EU relations after Ukraine: common destiny?” at the university's Rokko Hall. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the lecture was held as a hybrid event with a total of almost 100 participants.

In his lecture, he emphasized that ‘trust’ has become even more important in this changed world, and that we must continue efforts to avoid the worst case scenario and not lose hope.



Afterward, Mr. Van Rompuy visited President FUJISAWA Masato. They discussed the state of the coronavirus pandemic in Japan and Europe, as well as future plans for cooperation between the EU and Kobe University.

Related article: [https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022\\_07\\_28\\_01.html](https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/NEWS/info/2022_07_28_01.html)



## 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-plan \(a\) office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:intl-plan(a)office.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](#)

### ◆ Kobe University's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

知・人・共創と協働



KOBE UNIVERSITY

In 2022, Kobe University celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

We were honored to receive congratulatory messages from many universities, which can be viewed via the link below.

[CONGRATULATORY VIDEO MESSAGES](#)



## ◆ Notice from Institute for Promoting International Partnerships

In order to improve our capacity to develop international collaboration, we restructured our organization by establishing the following new offices in April 2022. The 'Office for International Strategic Planning' will formulate Kobe University's international strategy and supervise our activities in each region, and the 'Office for Promoting Cross-campus Collaboration' will be in charge of strengthening the connectivity between each University department's international activities.

In addition, the 'Europe & Africa Division', the 'Asia & Oceania Division' and the 'Americas Division', established under the 'Office for International Strategic Planning', will promote our international exchange activities and strengthen our overseas network based upon our international strategy, cooperating with each other across regional borders.

Each division's overseas offices are as follows. We aim to utilize these divisions and offices to enhance international collaborations.

[Europe & Africa Division]



### Kobe University Brussels European Centre

Pleinlaan 2 (Visitors: 5), 1050 Brussels, Belgium  
Email : intl-kobe\_u\_bxl(a)office.kobe-u.ac.jp

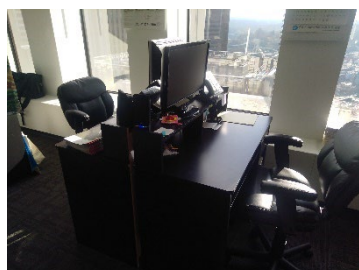
[Asia & Oceania Division]



### Kobe University China Office

No 2 Xisanhuan North Road, Haidian District, Beijing  
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[Americas Division]



### Kobe University Liaison Office in Seattle

1001, 4th Ave, Suite 4310, Seattle, WA 98154  
(Safeco Plaza, on the 43rd floor)  
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Thank you very much for reading this newsletter. We wish you all a pleasant winter holiday!