



Japan Economic Foundation-Aspen France Forum

Japan and Europe: Enduring partnerships amid global changes

Over the past several years, Japan and Europe have entered a world very different from that of the post-1945 era: Growth remains elusive despite heterodox and daring fiscal and monetary policies; representative democracy is increasingly questioned by voters; and the United States, once seen as the world sheriff of last resort, seems increasingly inward-looking, while China's rise commands central focus. With these timely topics at the center of global debates over contemporary political and economic trends, how should Europe and Japan contextualize their roles and partnerships? How can our countries understand and adjust to such unprecedented and unexpected changes?

Venue: Fondation Del Duca, 10 rue Alfred de Vigny, Paris

Program:

Monday, July 1, 2019

20:00 **Opening Dinner**

Keynote Address

François Villeroy de Galhau, Governor of the Bank of France

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

09:30-09:45 **Registration**

09:45-10:00 **Welcome Remarks & Introduction**

Jean-Luc Allavena, Chairman of the Board, Institut Aspen France
Kazumasa Kusaka, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation

10:00-10:30 **Keynote Address**

Bruno Le Maire, French Minister of the Economy and Finance

10:20-12:00 **Session 1: Strategies for growth amid world economic slowdown**

Moderator: Philippe Manière, Member of the Executive Committee, Institut Aspen France

Speakers:

--Takatoshi Ito, Ph.D., Professor, Columbia University, USA, and Senior Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan

--Aspen France: Thierry Bolloré, Managing Director, Groupe Renault

Discussions will focus on the impact of *Industry 4.0* and demographic change, notably the role of ageing societies and immigration, on socio-economic structures, and their implications for future jobs, inclusive growth, and the limits of fiscal and monetary stimulus policies.

Guiding questions:

- Is it possible for demographically “shrinking” countries to achieve GDP growth? How should countries adjust economically to demographic decline and an ageing workforce?
- Will the digital age kill industrial employment? How might the benefits of robotics be combined with the maintenance of a significant industrial workforce?
- When deficits and public debts are at record highs and interest rates at record lows, what tools are left to policy-makers seeking stimulus measures? Can we rely on permanent “artificial” stimuli to achieve robust and needed growth?

12:00-13:15 **Lunch**

13:15-14:30 **Session 2: The rise of populism and its impact on domestic political options, social stability, and globalization**

Moderator: Naoyuki Haraoka, Executive Managing Director, JEF

Speakers:

--Sota Kato, Ph.D., Executive Director and Research Director, Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research and Professor, International University of Japan

--Aspen France: Anne Lauvergeon, Former CEO, Areva; President, ALP SA

Guiding questions:

- To what extent are Japan and EU countries facing the same rejection of traditional politics? How should we compare and contrast such manifestations of populism and anti-globalization?
- Populist and anti-elite movements first targeted globalization, and now criticize representative democracy as a whole. Will this be a lasting phenomenon? How should democracies defend themselves against anti-democratic ideas propagated in the name of “the people”?
- How should policy-makers take new demands into account without abandoning core democratic values? What types of policies are prohibited or perhaps facilitated by the populist wave?

14:45-15:00 **Coffee Break**

15:00-16:30 **Session 3: The emerging new order in a globalized world**

Moderator: Philippe Manière, Member of the Executive Committee, Institut Aspen France

Speakers:

- Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Secretary General, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- Hideo Suzuki, Managing Executive Officer, Nippon Steel Corporation
- Masahiko Yamamoto, Acting General Manager, Global Research Team Leader, Global Strategy and Regional Management Department, Mitsubishi Corporation

Guiding questions:

- How have the EU and Japan approached China’s rise and what should be the strategy for future cooperation?
- To what extent does “Trump diplomacy” change the geopolitical environment of Japan and the EU?
- Are we entering a new “bipolar” world with the US and China as the global superpowers and, if so, how do we adjust?
- How does the EU-Japan FTA contribute to mitigating protectionism? Can such cooperation serve as a model for future challenges in global trade? Can the EU and Japan help the world remain open in spite of a mounting protectionism from the US and elsewhere?

16:30-16:50 Closing remarks

Jean-Luc Allavena, Chairman of the Board, Institut Aspen France

Kazumasa Kusaka, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic
Foundation (JEF)

16:50-17:30 Cocktail Reception