



The Political Economy of Japan and the EU: Challenges and Strategies

Friday 13 November 2015

This roundtable aims to explore the changing economic and political ties between Japan and the European Union. It considers not only formal negotiations between the EU and Japan, but also a number of key sectoral and structural concerns, as well as examining the relationship between transnational, national and local political actors in Europe and Japan.

DRAFT AGENDA

09:45 REGISTRATION | Tea & Coffee

10.00 INTRODUCTION

Speakers:

John Nilsson-Wright, Head, Asia Programme, Chatham House

Kazumasa Kusaka, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation

10.15 SESSION 1 | EU-Japan Trade and Economic Relationships

Key Questions:

- What are the prospects for a successful completion of an EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 2015?
- What are the implications of this agreement economically both within Europe and Japan?
- How might success in the FTA talks foster a wider and more cooperative strategic partnership between Japan and the EU?

Speakers:

Toshiyuki Shiga, Member, Board of Directors and Vice Chairman, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

Michael Reiterer, Principal Advisor, Asia and Pacific Department, European External Action Service

Tetsuro Fukunaga, Executive Director, Brussels Office, Japan Machinery Center for Trade and Investment (JMC)

Moderator: Naoyuki Haraoka, Executive Managing Director, Japan Economic Foundation

11.30 TEA & COFFEE

11.45 SESSION 2 | Age, Gender & Migration: The Challenges of Demography

Key Questions:

- How have Japan and EU member countries responded to the challenge of aging and gender inequality and what lessons can be learnt from their respective experiences in promoting greater social cohesion and labour flexibility?
- What are the benefits and challenges to Europe and Japan from increasing migration, whether regulated or unregulated?

Speakers:

Kyoji Fukao, Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University

Evelyn Ersanilli, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, VU University Amsterdam

Moderator: Janet Hunter, Saji Professor of Economic History, Economic History Department, London School of Economics

13.00 LUNCH

14.00 SESSION 3 | Energy & the Environment: Is a Green Future Possible?

Key questions:

- What has been the role of national governments in Europe and Japan in mitigating climate change?
- What are the prospects for and obstacles to the reactivation of Japan's nuclear reactors?
- How have technological advances helped to enhance Japan's ability to manage the challenge of global climate change?

Speakers:

Keigo Akimoto, Chief Researcher and Leader, Systems Analysis Group, Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth

Rob Bailey, Research Director, Energy, Environment and Resources Department, Chatham House

Moderator: Neil Hirst, Senior Policy Fellow, Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College London

15.15 TEA & COFFEE

15.30 SESSION 4 | Local Government and New Models of Political Accountability

Key questions:

- How have the triple disasters of 3/11 influenced the role of local government in Japan, both in limiting the power of central government and in providing localized solutions to particular policy problems?
- Is Japan turning inwards and embracing a new model of ‘slow economic growth’? What are the costs and benefits of such a change?
- What do the experiences of Europe and Japan suggest are the benefits of greater political devolution?

Speakers:

Sota Kato, Professor, International University of Japan; Senior Fellow and Director of Research, Tokyo Foundation

Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Moderator: Arthur Stockwin, Emeritus Fellow, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford

16.45 WRAP-UP AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Speakers:

John Nilsson-Wright, Head, Asia Programme, Chatham House

Kazumasa Kusaka, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation

17.15 DRINKS RECEPTION

18.30 END