

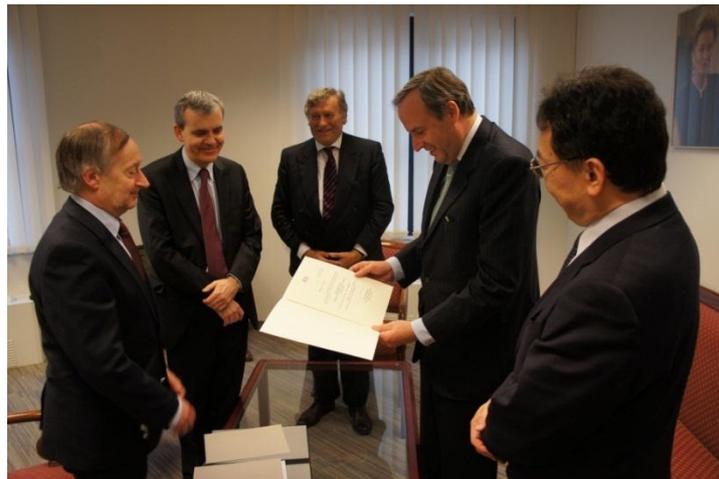


Belgium-Japan Association
Chamber of Commerce
日白協会兼商工会議所



PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TITLE BESTOWED UPON THE BJA



His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium bestowed upon the BJA the Royal title. This honour comes as the BJA prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. During these 50 years, the BJA has promoted closer ties between Belgium and Japan, both at the economic, cultural and personal level.

On March 20th, the Royal Diploma was handed over during an Official Ceremony by the Governor of Brussels, Mr Jean Clément, to Mr Thomas Leysen, the President of the BJA, in presence of BJA Vice-Presidents, Mr Edward De Beukelaer, Mr Atsushi Sudo and Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten.

The title "Royal" may be granted by the King to Belgian associations that have been in existence for more than 50 years. Other criteria taken into account include good management, the not-for-profit purpose of the association, its vitality and soundness.

The BJA is most grateful for the honor granted by His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium - a historical moment for the association and its members.



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For further information and pictures of the handing over ceremony:

Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce

Avenue Louise 287, box 7 - 1050 Brussels

Tel.: +32 (0)2 644 14 05

Fax: +32 (0)2 644 23 60

E-mail: info@bja.be

About the BJA:

The Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce (BJA) groups over 650 members, including Belgian and multinational companies, as well as the leading Japanese companies based in Belgium, and individuals. It is a dynamic non-profit organization promoting business and cultural relations between Belgium, Europe and Japan, offering many activities including business luncheons, export and investment seminars as well as exclusive invitations to cultural events.

The BJA also contributes to Belgium-Japan related business promotions through various initiatives and (book) publications - creating a dynamic business environment for its Japanese and Belgian members by informing on important business matters, influencing the development of public policy and facilitating networking opportunities. In 2008 the BJA was awarded a commendation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, for the outstanding role the BJA plays in fostering the relations between both nations.

More information can be found on www.bja.be



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