



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



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EDITORIAL

Aligning legal and tax priorities

By Mr Wim Eynatten, Chairman Legal & Tax Committee and International Tax Partner Deloitte



Mr Wim Eynatten

It is a great privilege to write this issue's Editorial of the Trade Flows & Cultural News. In February 2014 I succeeded Ronny De Prest as Chairman of the Legal & Tax Committee. My first year as Chairman of the Legal & Tax Committee has been very interesting and busy.

In view of the government formation after the elections of 25 May 2014 we decided to conduct a (new) survey to assess the views of Japanese companies doing business in Belgium on the competitiveness of the Belgian legal and tax system following recent changes in Belgian tax law. The survey was conducted during the month of July 2014 among BJA corporate members and non-member Japanese companies doing business in Belgium. In the survey, we asked 45 questions on a wide range of tax and legal related matters. Hereby I would like to thank once again all companies that completed the survey.

The survey showed that generally Belgian federal and regional governments and their officials are considered business friendly and that the presence of key European and international institutions is important for Japanese companies doing business in Europe. However, the survey also showed that there are a number of concerns.

The main concern relates to the competitiveness of Belgium for hosting headquarters and centres of excellence. Recent changes to the Belgian holding company tax regime and the absence of a 100% participation exemption for dividend income (only 95% dividend-received-deduction) have increased the pressure on the attractiveness of Belgium as a regional headquarter / holding location compared to other EU Member States.

I followed the process of government formation with interest, focusing particularly on the competitiveness agenda, as it has important consequences for business, investment and job creation in Belgium. Upon the formation of the new federal and regional governments position papers were sent to various federal and regional ministers. In these position papers the key findings of the survey as well as priorities identified following discussion within the Legal & Tax Committee were summarized.

In the meantime we have visited Mr Johan Van Overtveldt (Finance Minister) with a Legal & Tax Committee delegation in order to discuss the survey results as well as the priorities of BJA in greater detail. We are currently planning visits to other Ministers and have already scheduled a meeting with Mr Kris Peeters (Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Work).

On 11-14 May 2015 a BJA delegation including myself will attend the Belgian Government mission to Japan led by Prime Minister Charles Michel and by Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Work Kris Peeters. During a business seminar in Tokyo and company visits in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka we will promote the attractiveness of Belgium as a headquarter and investment location.

As BJA and other organizations (such as AmCham Belgium and sector organizations) have a common interest in reinforcing the competitiveness of Belgium as an attractive location for hosting (European) headquarters and for doing business in general, and to strive together for a more competitive and prosperous Belgium, I will touch-base with AmCham Belgium

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Annual General Assembly of the BJA

Tuesday, 17 March 2015 – Umicore, Brussels



HE Ambassador Ishii and Mr Hoorelbeke, Chairman of Daikin Europe, exchanging their views on Japan's economic future.



Mr & Mrs Blondé, Co-Founders of the Marilo Fund, congratulating Mr Dauchot, 2014 laureate, for his insightful presentation.



BJA members enjoying the networking cocktail

On 17 March, the Annual General Assembly was once more generously hosted by BJA Sponsor member Umicore, at its Brussels premises. An audience of over 60 members, including HE Ambassador Ishii of the Japanese Embassy to Belgium, was present.

After some welcome words by Prof. Declerck, Board member of imec International and BJA President, Mr Van Overstraeten, Partner at Linklaters LLP and BJA Vice-President, reported on the financial results of 2014, followed by Mrs Oto-Kellens, BJA Executive Director, who presented the 2015 budget. Mr Sepulchre, Managing Director of Sogeman and Chairman of the Membership Committee, presented the membership situation for 2014 – 2015. Mr Van Overstraeten continued to report on the activities of the Executive Committee, representing all business committees, followed by Mr Jan Lambrechts, Director of Ichiban Consult and member of the Cultural Committee, who gave a review of all the activities organized by the Cultural and Friendship Committee in 2014.

The statutory nominations were voted afterwards, allowing Prof. Declerck to close the meeting and give the floor to Mr Valentin Dauchot, Journalist at La Libre Belgique and laureate of the 2014 Marilo Fund grant.

Mr Dauchot shared his views on the future of the Japanese economy and entrepreneurship, interacting with the audience. After this insightful presentation, Prof. Declerck invited all the participants for a networking cocktail.



(from left) Mrs Oto-Kellens, Prof. Declerck, Mr Van Overstraeten, Mr Sepulchre and Mr Lambrechts reporting on the activities of the BJA



Security Seminar 第3回企業・在留邦人向け安全対策セミナー

2015年、4月23日(木)、ブラッセル日本人学校



Mr. Masatomo Nomura, Founder of Nomura Consulting Europe and Chairman of BJA Investment Committee gives an opening speech for the 3rd Security Seminar.



Mr. Nagano of Embassy of Japan gives presentation on comparison of situation in Japan and Belgium to the audience.



An advisor for robbery and burglary protection from the Police department for the Auderghem, Uccle, and Watermael-Boitsfort communes explains some examples of typical crimes against Japanese and how to avoid them.

この度、BJA(日白協会兼商工会議所)、在ベルギー日本国大使館、ベルギー日本人会は、日本人学校の協力を得て、第3回「企業・在留邦人向け安全対策セミナー」を開催しました。

セミナーは当地における犯罪の状況および防犯対策を説明することにより、在留邦人(特に最近当地に来られた方々)が日常感じられている治安に対する不安の払拭を図るとともに、防犯意識の向上を目的とし、約70名以上のブラッセル日本人学校生徒の保護者並びにBJA及び日本人会会員の皆様にお集まり頂き、PTA総会後に実施されました。

当団は、オーデルゲム/ウックル/ワーテマル・ボアフォール警察区域 5342 警察官、盗難防止アドバイザー、ルック・ストルム氏よりベルギー警察組織、路上における注意事項と自宅に関する注意事項、当地警察の取り組みについてご説明頂きました。

セミナー終了後、多くの参加者の方々よりアンケートにご回答頂き、ご協力賜りましたこと、お礼申し上げます。

On 23 April 2015, the Belgium-Japan Association and Chamber of Commerce organised a seminar in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy and the Nihonjinkai, held at the Japanese School in Brussels, on (personal) security matters. This seminar was held in the Japanese language only with the aim to enhance the awareness of the Japanese community in Belgium on security measures. With a kind cooperation by the Police department of the area of Auderghem, Uccle, and Watermael-Boitsfort communes, an advisor for protection on robbery and burglary gave a thorough presentation to over 70 parents of the Brussels Japanese School, members of the Japanese Association in Belgium and the BJA.



The Legal & Tax Committee

The Legal and Tax Committee is responsible for monitoring significant tax and legal developments in Belgium and in the EU and attempting to influence, in a constructive way, legislative and administrative decisions in such fashion as to promote the best interests of the Japanese and international business community in Belgium.

The Legal & Tax Committee aims to improve the overall climate for doing business in Belgium by the maintenance of and improvement to existing fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and, in general, to promote the continued improvement in the overall legal and tax climate for investors.

法務＆税務委員会は、ベルギーおよびEUの重要な税務・法律上の動向をモニターし、ベルギーにおける日本企業や国際企業の最適な利益を促進するために、法制上・行政上の様々な決定事項に建設的な影響を及ぼすという役割を担っています。法務＆税務委員会は、既存の税制優遇措置ならびにそれ以外の優遇措置の保持と改善により、ベルギーで事業を営むための全般的な環境をより良いものにし、広くは、投資家にとっての法律上・税務上の環境の継続的な改善に努めることを目指しています。

Chairman: Wim Eynatten

- › DANIEL BROEKHUIZEN
Director International Tax & Internal Audit Division, Toyota Motor Europe NV/SA.
Daniel Broekhuizen has lead since 2001 Toyota's European Tax Function, managed during 2006-2008 period the European Treasury & Insurance Function, and since 2009 is also responsible for the European Internal Audit Function of Toyota Motor Europe (TME) Group Affiliates. In his International Tax capacity, he is responsible for the compliance processes in VAT, Customs & Trade, and Corporate Tax and Transfer Pricing. In his Internal Audit capacity, he is responsible for Internal Control and Risk Management compliance, overall Risk Management Assurance and the SOx compliance process. Before Toyota, Daniel was the European Director of Tax & Treasury in a US Specialty Chemicals Manufacturer.



› HERVÉ COGELS

Hervé Cogels is a partner with the international law firm of Hunton and Williams, based in its Brussels office. He has assisted multinational corporations with mergers and acquisitions, financing, commercial contracts and litigation, intellectual property issues, real estate matters, selected labor law matters, stock option plans and general corporate advice. His clients include chemical companies, insurance companies, truck manufacturers, real estate corporations, bio-tech and high-tech companies. His clients list also includes several prominent Japanese corporations. He is a member of the bar of Brussels and of the bar of New York.



› THOMAS DE MUYNCK

Thomas is an M&A lawyer, with over fifteen years experience advising on acquisitions, joint ventures, private equity and venture capital transactions, and with particular experience representing Japanese corporations. He has also been involved in regulatory investigations for Japanese clients. Thomas lived and worked in Japan in 1999-2000 and again in 2011-2012. He met his wife Maiko Yoshishige while both were studying at Columbia University in New York, and together they have three fantastic children.



› ALEXANDER DE NYS

Senior Immigration Consultant with the Belgian inbound team at Fragomen Global LLP in Brussels. I am the main point of contact for our Japanese clients who second their employees to Belgium. I specialize in advisory services in the field of economic migration. Since I am a car enthusiast I also greatly appreciate Japan for its interesting history and current prominent presence in the global automotive industry.



› JEROEN DHANENS

After law school, I started working as a lawyer. In 2003, I started working for BAT, where I first came into contact with the tobacco industry. In 2007, I was given the opportunity to establish a Corporate Affairs & Communications department at JTI for both Belgium and Luxembourg. Together with my team, I am responsible for taxation, communication projects, as well as handling external relations of our company with governments, interest groups and media. In my free time I like to go running and love spending quality time with my family.



› WIM EYNATTEN

Wim Eynatten is an International Tax Partner with Deloitte in Brussels and Chairman of the BJA Legal and Tax Committee. He is a member of Deloitte's Japanese Business Taxation Europe (JBTE) team and leads the JBT practice in Belgium.



He has many Japanese clients in various industries and assists them with their Belgian domestic and cross-border tax issues. He has significant experience in corporate tax law, international tax planning and restructurings, R&D and IP tax structures, holding structures, finance structures, M&A, EC tax law and transfer pricing. He has spoken at various seminars and conferences and is the author of various publications in the field of taxation. During his free time Wim enjoys traveling, playing field hockey and cycling. Wim is also a member of the youth board of the Royal Hockey Club of Leuven where his three kids are also playing field hockey.

› JEAN-CLAUDE DOM

General Manager, Finance & Purchasing at AW Europe - automotive sector (Automatic transmissions & Navigation systems). Mother company is AISIN AW located in ANJO (Aichi Prefecture).



I joined AW Europe in June 1997, when the company headcount was only... 85 people ! Today we are 900 people in Belgium and 115 in Germany.

My first experience in Japan was in 1999 when I had to go one week to defend the following year's budget. I was alone in front of 20 Japanese colleagues asking questions and questions about the way the results were calculated. The Finance Japanese coordinator had to stay in Belgium and came to the office around 4 am during one week just in case I would need help. Finally my first budget was accepted and the trust was established.

Last year I could enjoy the beauties of Japan during a private trip in October and finally discover different places than restaurants and karaoke bars as we do usually during business trips.

I am looking forward to go back!

› FREDERIK MONTEYNE

Frederik Monteyne graduated from the K.U.Leuven as a Master in Japanese Studies (Japanology) in 1992, after one year at the Kansai University in Osaka he further specialized in the Japanese business environment with a 2 year Master Course in Japanese Economics and Finance at the EHSAL Management School.



His working experience includes Japanese language teaching, the Consular section of the Japanese Embassy in Brussels, Kintetsu World Express. Now he is working as EU Risk Manager at Toyota Tsusho Europe since 2004.

› PETER MOREAU

Peter Moreau is a Tax Partner with EY and leading the Japanese Business tax services within EY Belgium. Peter has a broad experience assisting multinational companies with domestic and cross border tax matters. Prior to serving Japanese companies from the Brussels office, Peter was part of the EY global tax desk group in the New York office. Together with colleagues of the global EY Japanese Business Services network, Peter keeps a close relationship with Japanese companies in Belgium and Japan. Peter studied at the University of Leuven and the Copenhagen Business School. Peter loves his family, travelling and sports.



› STEVE MORIYAMA

Steve Moriyama is a partner with PwC. Steve has assisted a number of Japanese multinationals in investing in Europe over the past 25 years. In recent years, he has specialised in helping Japanese companies navigate through the threats and opportunities created by the rise of Central and Eastern Europe including Russia. Steve is an author of 14 books in Japan on business affairs and cross-cultural communication.



› MASATOMO NOMURA

Masatomo Nomura is the founder of Nomura Consulting Europe and is a leading consultant on the EU-Japan business affairs. He is also a veteran on the Belgian business scene with more than 20 years of experience. For relaxation, he rides his beloved horse Reykjavik in the Forêt de Soignes.

*» keep reading from p.1*

and with sector organizations to explore cooperation opportunities and to align priorities. It would be much more impactful if various organizations bring the same message.

As chairman of the Legal & Tax Committee I will do my best in attempting to influence, in a constructive way, legislative and administrative decisions in such fashion as to promote the best interests of the Japanese and international business community in Belgium.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow Legal & Tax Committee members for their valuable contributions and I look forward to continuing to work with all BJA stakeholders on promoting and reinforcing the attractiveness of Belgium as a headquarter and investment location.

*By Mr Wim Eynatten, Chairman Legal & Tax Committee
and International Tax Partner Deloitte*

› ALEXANDRE PIROTTE

Alexandre is a Manager and Attorney based in Fragomen's Brussels office who provides counsel on the immigration aspects of corporate migration matters in Luxembourg and Belgium. His multinational corporate clients operate in various industries, including in information technology consulting, pharmaceuticals and banking. Alexandre's practice focuses on helping his clients to meet labor and immigration requirements associated with the transfer of staff into Luxembourg and Belgium.



› ERIC RESLER

Early in my life I developed a special interest in all aspects of the EU-Japan relationship since the 16th century. As a young business lawyer, I received scholarships from the Japanese Government to first conduct comparative legal research in Tokyo, then join the post-graduate law school of Chuo University. The last two years of my five-year stay in Japan, I worked for a Japanese law firm in Tokyo. With over 25 years' experience in a variety of legal areas, including international distribution, general commercial transactions and intellectual property, I still particularly enjoy working for Japanese companies with a presence in Belgium as well as advising Western companies on Japan related commercial transactions.



› ERWIN VANDERVELDE

I am a partner in Deloitte Belgium where I lead the Immigration and Social security department. Both areas are of major importance for the Japanese companies established in Belgium and their expats. I was heavily involved in the conclusion of the Belgian-Japanese Social Security agreement and I advocate the improvement of immigration formalities for highly qualified employees towards Belgium.

Hobby: guitarist & singer in a folk band.



› TANGUY VAN OVERSTRAETEN

I am Tanguy Van Overstraeten. You may know me as Vice-President of our Association and Chair of its Executive Committee. As a lawyer for 27 years, partner at Linklaters since 1998, my passion remains law, besides Japan of course! This is why I created the Legal & Tax Committee back in March 2001. I am glad the Committee remains so active today! In my professional life, I assist companies in many sectors, predominantly but not only from Japan, with a blend of corporate work and a focus on information technology and electronic communications (including outsourcing and privacy). I also contribute to the Marilo Fund and participate in the organisation of the Fukko concerts. In my leisure, I am a dedicated film watcher and a reader of comics.



› PAUL A. VON HEHN

Paul A. von Hehn is a German partner at WilmerHale in Brussels. He has lived and practiced in Germany, Belgium, China, Hong Kong and the US. Mr von Hehn's practice ranges from corporate to compliance, including anticorruption and internal investigations. He has written extensively on these subjects, including in the Japanese publication "Business Legal Affairs" and "the New Business Law Journal Japan".



FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

新年会ディナー

Shinnenkai (New Year Party) at Japanese restaurant Hinodeya

Saturday 21 February 2015 – Brussels



My colleagues at work were talking about Japanese events and invited me to join on the next occasion of a FCOM event. I must say I never went to a Japanese New Year party and it was very nice. The food was much more diverse than I thought, as I mainly know sushi. The team that organizes is very professional and very helpful. After a few glasses of sake and tasty food, there was a lottery. What I learned is that Japanese have a second party. So after the restaurant, I joined with many participants to have a drink in a café nearby. It was a fun evening and I will for sure join again in the future. Thank you.

By Philippe de Séjournet de Ragmeignies



It was certainly a pleasant surprise when a friend talked to me about this Friendship Committee of the BJA. We decided to join the next event. As the Shinnenkai was fully booked, I feared we might have to wait for the next event, but luckily for us somebody cancelled. The food, the lottery and the people were a perfect alchemy for a great evening. I wish we would have had more time to talk, but perhaps that will happen another day. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

By Regine Fortin



150 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND BELGIUM GUIDELINES TO APPLY FOR ENDORSEMENT OF EVENTS

The Embassy of Japan in Belgium, under the conditions written below, takes applications for events related to the 150 Years of Friendship between Japan and Belgium and acknowledges events as 150 Years of Friendship between Japan and Belgium events. The organizers of endorsed events/projects are entitled to use the official logo in publicity materials (i.e. posters, pamphlets, website, signboards, banners, publications etc.).

Eligibility for endorsement

- › The event should take place in Belgium between January 1st and December 31st of the year 2016 in principle.
- › The event should aim to promote Japanese-Belgian relations, encouraging exchange and/or strengthening the friendship between Japan and Belgium, in various fields such as politics, economy, education, science and technology, culture, society, sports etc. This includes events related to corporate contributions to society.
- › The objective of the event should not be to advocate any particular principle, ideology or religion, any political activity or election campaign and must not violate public order or standards of decency.
- › The logo will not be used for commercial purpose.
- › Financial costs of the events should be fully borne by the organizer.
- › The rules and regulations of the event venue should be adhered to and the rights of other persons (including copyright) will not be infringed.

Privileges of endorsed events

- › The organizers of endorsed events are entitled to use the title of the 150 Years of Friendship between Japan and Belgium and the official logo in publicity materials (i.e. posters, pamphlets, website, signboards, banners, etc).
- › Endorsed events will be listed on the official calendar of the 150 Years of Friendship between Japan and Belgium on the Embassy's Website.

Application procedure

- › Organizers who wish to obtain endorsement should submit the following necessary documents at the Embassy of Japan in Belgium 1 month prior to the event.
 1. Event endorsement application form
 2. Letter of commitment
 3. Description of the event
 4. Description of the organizer
 5. Income and expenditure plan

- › Upon receiving the documents for application, the Embassy of Japan in Belgium will examine the applications on the basis of the present guidelines.
- › The Embassy of Japan in Belgium will send the results of the decision to the organizer. Upon request, endorsed organizers will be provided with the logo as digital data and a summary of the event will be placed on the event list of the 150 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND BELGIUM on the website of the Embassy of Japan in Belgium.

Where to submit the application forms / inquiries

The Embassy of Japan in Belgium

- › Address:
Rue Van Maerlant - Van Maerlantstraat 1
1000 Bruxelles - Brussel
- › Tel: 32-(0)2-513-2340
- › Fax: 32-(0)2-513-1556
- › E-mail: 150logo@bx.mofa.go.jp

Notes

- › Application forms will not be returned. Please make a copy beforehand if needed.
- › Inquiries regarding the examining process will not be responded.
- › Organizers of endorsed events/projects will bear the entire responsibility for their implementation including financial costs and public advertisement.
- › The Embassy will bear no responsibility for any consequences related to the event/project.
- › Should the event/project be cancelled or a substantive change be made, the organizers are required to promptly inform the Embassy of the relevant circumstances. In case of substantive changes, the Embassy reserves its right to withdraw the endorsement.
- › Organizers of events may not use the logo in other events hosted by the organizer or in any other manner outside the endorsed event or project without appropriate authorization.
- › After the event organizers are requested to submit a brief report (in free form) on the event including some photos (no video) to the Embassy. Contents of the report may be referred to on the Embassy's website.

For further documentation and information,
please consult the website of the Japanese Embassy in Belgium
www.be.emb-japan.go.jp/english/archives/news_150126.html

EU-Japan news

EU AND JAPAN HOLD DIALOGUE ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

Principal Adviser and Special Envoy for non-proliferation and disarmament at the European External Action Service Jacek Bylica visited Tokyo for the European Union (EU) – Japan Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Dialogue. During his visit, he also spoke at an international symposium on space issues and met with a number of key Japanese interlocutors.

The bilateral dialogue was held on 25 February, with the Japanese side headed by Takeshi Hikihara, Director-General of the Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. EEAS Special Envoy Bylica welcomed the opportunity to hold an in-depth discussion with Japan ahead of this year's Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime.

During his visit, Mr Bylica also held meetings with Taro Kono,

Chairman of the Parliamentary League on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Takeo Kawamura, Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Special Committee on Space and Ocean Development and Masayoshi Hamada, Chairman of the Ko-meito Council for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and State Minister for Reconstruction.

Mr Bylica also spoke about the EU initiative for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities at the International Symposium on Sustainable Space Development and Space Situational Awareness, which was co-organised by the Tokyo Institute of Technology and the Japan Space Forum.

Source

[www.euinjapan.jp/en/media/news/
news2015/20150227/170032/](http://www.euinjapan.jp/en/media/news/news2015/20150227/170032/)

EU AND JAPAN HELD A CONSTRUCTIVE 10TH ROUND OF FTA NEGOTIATIONS

The EU and Japan held the 10th round of FTA talks in Tokyo from 22 to 29 April. The round focused on further consolidation of the negotiating texts.

The two negotiating teams, led by the European Commission Deputy Director General for Trade, Mauro Petriccione, and the Japanese Deputy Minister for foreign affairs Yasumasa Nagamine, discussed most of the areas to be included in the future free trade agreement, such as: tariffs, public procurement, railways, services, investment, competition, rules of origin, customs and trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, including geographical indications, dispute settlement, trade and sustainable development, sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

The two negotiating teams explored possibilities for advancing on a number of complex issues and showed a lot of flexibility.

This is the last round before the EU-Japan Summit in May and it is expected that further positive developments will be announced at the Summit. The next 11th round of FTA talks is scheduled to take place in Brussels before the summer break.

Source

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1299>



21ST EU-JAPAN ICT DIALOGUE, STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

The 21st EU-Japan ICT dialogue took place in Tokyo. This meeting is part of a regular ICT policy and research dialogue between the European Union (EU) and Japan that aims to strengthen cooperation in this field.

The European Commission delegation was led by Zoran Stanicic, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG CNECT), while the Japanese delegation was headed by Vice-Minister Yasuo Sakamoto from the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communications (MIC). Officials from DG CNECT and MIC also attended this meeting.

Participants discussed the following topics:

› **ICT Policy**

Participants exchanged views on recent and upcoming policy activities in the EU and Japan. They also reported on the output of the 23rd March workshop on ICT strategies.

› **Internet Governance**

Participants discussed issues of global policy coordination on Internet governance for international discussion such as the World Summit on the Information Society.

› **Regulatory framework**

Participants exchanged views on recent and upcoming policy activities in the EU and Japan. They also reported on the output of the 23rd March workshop on ICT strategies.

› **Safer Internet environment for children**

Participants recognized the importance of promoting a safer Internet environment for children and agreed to continue cooperation in other fora beyond the EU-Japan ICT Dialogue like the Safer Internet Day or the network of hotlines.

› **Cooperation on research and development in the area of ICT**

Participants shared the updates of their policies on ICT R&D. They reviewed the 2 running EU-Japan Coordinated Calls that cover sectors like optical & wireless communications, big data, cloud computing and discussed preparation of the third Coordinated Call.

› **Response to active and healthy ageing society**

Participants both acknowledged the importance of making the most of ICT for achieving an active and healthy ageing society, and discussed the preparation of the coordinated call.

› **User information and privacy policy on ICT services**

Participants discussed the cooperation on cyber security and concurred that they will continuously share information and exchange best practices.

› **5G**

Participants welcome the signature on 25 March 2015 in Frankfurt of the 5G Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and Japanese industry. They also discussed the signature of the EU-Japan 5G Joint Declaration that should take place as soon as possible.

Building on this meeting, EU-Japan links will be further strengthened with the forthcoming signature of the 5G Joint Declaration, the preparation of the EU-Japan Business Round Table that will take place on 28 April in Brussels and the EU-Japan Summit.

Source

[www.euinjapan.jp/en/media/news/
news2015/20150324/160009/](http://www.euinjapan.jp/en/media/news/news2015/20150324/160009/)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICES RELOCATION THE MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Mission of Japan to the European Union is pleased to announce that its offices will relocate to the following address.

New Address:

Rue Van Maerlant / Van Maerlantstraat 1, 1000 Bruxelles / Brussel

Tel:

+32 2 500 77 11 (Switchboard)

Fax:

+32 2 513 32 41

Email:

info@eu.mofa.go.jp

Opening Day of New Offices: May 22

Office Hours: Weekdays 9:30 - 13:00, 14:00 - 18:15

news for the members



FRISK BY MURAKAMI WHEN NEO POP AND FRESHNESS COME TOGETHER

Contemporary art has always nurtured an interest in popular consumer products, often transforming them into icons of the collective imagination. The exclusive 'Frisk Art Project' has been generated by a special encounter between the artist Takashi Murakami and Frisk power mints, enabling the artist to express his acid pop style in the creation of a unique collection of packs with an unmistakable, brightly coloured, trendy and undeniably eye-catching design.

A story of freshness

It was in Belgium, in 1986, that Frisk International launched its famous sugar-free power mints: micro-tablets of concentrated freshness. The Frisk brand immediately established itself as a leading product and grew so popular that in 1989, the company began distributing it in the Netherlands, Canada and Japan too. Frisk proved an instant hit particularly in Japan, where it was the first imported product to be awarded the 'Best food product of the year' title in 1996. Since 1995, Frisk has been part of the Perfetti group, which went on to become Perfetti Van Melle, one of the most important international holdings in the confectionery sector. Over the following years, Frisk's growth continued to escalate and it went on to become a popular household name all over the

world: a product on everyone's lips.

Conveying coolness

Frisk conveys a message of Innovation, Urban Life and Hi-style. The 'FRISK ART PROJECT' was specifically developed to consolidate the brand's insights in these areas. Right from the very start of the project, it was always apparent that Takashi Murakami had to be the first artist to interpret the brand values thanks to his outstanding expressive originality. This project has been carried out with such enthusiasm that the artist was also involved in the design of the exhibition materials and the form of the new tablets. This led to the creation of Frisk's new 'Murakami Edition' tins: Frightening Mint, Blooming Cherry and Mixed Fruit, where Murakami's symbolic characters are the stars of the new and ultra-chic packs. The launch is scheduled for early 2015 in France, Belgium, Italy and Japan.

Takashi Murakami

When art is all about pop!

Takashi Murakami is considered one of the greatest contemporary Japanese painters and sculptors. In 2008, TIME magazine featured him as the only visual artist in its 100 Most Influential People in the World. He was born in Tokyo in 1962 and, after growing up

as a typical otaku boy, into anime and manga, he graduated in Nihon-ga (traditional Japanese painting) from Tokyo University of the Arts. In 1994, keen to learn about other ideas and new artistic techniques, a study grant from Asian Cultural Council allowed him to move to New York where he discovered Pop Art. Murakami has often been compared to Andy Warhol because of the inspiration he draws from consumer culture. However, despite not denying his interest in American pop art, the artist asserts his own cultural autonomy. In fact, his aesthetic references are associated with Japanese culture and the otaku phenomenon. In 2001, Murakami curated a group show entitled 'Superflat', where he presented his aesthetic concept in which tradition, pop and otaku merge. The exhibition became a manifesto for his artistic style. Murakami succeeds in combining high art, destined for museums and collectors, and low art applied to objects destined for mass consumption, with intelligence and never-ending creativity. By breaking down the barriers between high culture and pop culture, Murakami recognises everyone's desire to own trendy objects inspired by a fun and stimulating artistic imagination. This has led to the creation of bags and numerous other cult objects, including the new Frisk collections.

Looking for strong sensations?

For an extreme effect, it is Frisk Frightening that you need! These very strong mints are skull shaped as a way of warning. Ready for a challenge? Let's experience the Frightening Mint! Frisk Frightening Mint, a unique explosion that refreshes the breath straight away.

Looking for poetry?

Below the kindly eye of Kaikai and Kiki, 2 iconic figures of Murakami, Frisk Cherry brings you right in the heart the "blooming" Japanese cherry trees. Faithful to the traditional universe of Murakami, these flowers shaped tabs are a spring foretaste! Their Cherry flavor with floral notes will get you with their touch of slightly sour freshness. Frisk Cherry is an invitation to the journey that you don't want to miss!

Looking for exoticism?

Frisk Mixed Fruit, a taste from elsewhere ... These tabs in the shape of one of Takashi Murakami's most known symbol: Jellyfish Eye. This cocktail of exotic fruits is a first step towards Asia. Frisk Mixed Fruit, a real change of scene!



Source

RCA PR
Hilde Meus
011 5905 97

ASIAN ART IN BRUSSELS IS SCHEDULED FOR 10-14 JUNE 2015

Leading dealers in the arts of India and the Himalayas, Central Asia, South East Asia, China, Japan, will offer the finest works of art on view and for sale. AAB is delighted to welcome three new exhibitors specialized in the field of Japanese painting and graphic arts.

As for the previous years a strictly organized vetting by a panel of international specialists and the compulsory ART LOSS REGISTER certification of all offered works of art will assure the collectors and the public of authenticity and provenance. Such high standard is quite unique and highly appreciated by the visitors.

ArtConnoisseurs

AAB and BAAF fairs are proud to announce

that the third edition of "ArtConnoisseurs - a rendezvous with Art, Knowledge and Beauty" will be organised in collaboration with the Royal Museums of Art and History. On Friday 12th of June, the Cinquantenaire Museum will host a series of lectures on Asian Art and Archeology held by the museum's specialists and by invited international scholars as well as private guided tours by the curators of the museum.

Exhibition: Fight Pray Love

The exhibition: Fight – Pray – Love will focus on Moghul and Sikh arms and armours from an important private European collection. A catalogue will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition and a lecture will be held by the well known specialist Robert Elgood.

The exhibition focus on the role of weaponry in acts of worship and rituals; its sacred role in the quotidian worlds and in religious ceremonies and the techniques; the design and decoration symbolism intervening in its manufacture, and on the wider role this material and metaphysical phenomenon has had to play.

The exhibition will be held in an exceptional "Art Nouveau" building from the Belgian architect Victor Horta (Hôtel Frison). We look forward to greeting visitors to ASIAN ART IN BRUSSELS from 10 to 14 June 2015.

Source

[www.asianartinbrussels.com/
index.html](http://www.asianartinbrussels.com/index.html)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICES RELOCATION AND REOPENING OF THE JAPAN INFORMATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE

The Embassy of Japan in Belgium is pleased to announce that its offices will relocate to the following address.

The Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC) of the Embassy of Japan will be reopened as of May 26 as well. The JICC will be in charge of all the services conducted by the Cultural and Information Section.

New Address:

Rue Van Maerlant
Van Maerlantstraat 1
1000 Bruxelles / Brussel

Tel:

02 513 23 40

Fax:

02 513 15 56

Consular Section Tel:

02 500 05 80

Consular Section Fax:

02 513 46 33

Opening Day of New Offices:

May 26
(The last working day of the current location will be May 21)

Consular Section Opening Hours:

09:15 - 12:00, 13:30 - 16:00

ROLAND DG OPENS NEW OFFICES IN GEEL (FLANDERS)

Roland DG Central Europe — a branch of the Japan-based Roland Corporation — officially opened its new offices and Creative Center in Geel (Flanders). The opening ceremony coincided with the celebration of the company's 30th anniversary.

Roland DG Central Europe manufactures digitalized plotters, vinyl cutters, engravers, printers for the production of commercial sign-work and point-of-sale materials, etc. Gregory Bilsen, President of the company: "We generated significant growth over the past years. In order to keep up this pace and prepare for the future, we decided to move to a larger building."

The new building is located along the E313, an important arterial road in Flanders. "That way, we are easily accessible to our customers, partners and staff — a top priority for our company", Gregory adds.

"Moreover," he says, "we also built a brand-new Creative Center. There, we aim to inspire visitors, showing them what they could do with Roland machines. From the automotive and sports sector to interior decoration and retail: the applications are limitless. We'll be able to show new things to our visitors all the time!"

Source

Flanders Investment & Trade
www.investinflanders.be/EN/news/2015/01/16/Roland-DG-opens-new-offices-in-Geel-%28Flanders%29

CULTURAL ITEM



© Sarah Van Marcke



© Charlotte Lybeer



© Nick Hannes



© Stephan Vanfleteren

'FACING JAPAN'

'Facing Japan' shows the works of 10 of Flanders' most talented photographers, all shot while in residence in Japan. For this project, each of the photographers took a unique approach to facing the enigmatic reality of this Far Eastern island nation. 'Facing Japan' has therefore elicited unexpected and fascinating images that emerge from the tensions and contradictions found in an incessantly inspiring country.

Photographers love to go to Japan and spend time there. Preferably a long time. Flemish photographers are no different. The country has been firing the imagination and the emotions for as long as photography has existed. Japan is indeed a perfect setting for capturing both the beautiful and bizarre in visual images.

But one thing needs to be said. The hospitality that the country extends to visitors in general and photographers in particular does not always come without mental strings attached. The mirror Japan holds up confronts and coerces. At times, Japan's mental frame of reference does not mesh with Western concepts. This can upset our balance and expose a different reality. 'Japan as a burning hole in the map of my world', as Jan van Nijlen said in his poem of yore.

It is this underlying reality and the conflict it produces that photographers are looking for in the images they capture. With the support of the Flanders Center, ten Flemish photographers took on the daunting task and challenge of facing Japan—a mix of young, upcoming photographers and more established photographers: Marleen Daniëls, Nick Hannes, Michiel Hendryckx, Maroesjka Lavigne, Tony Le Duc, Charlotte Lybeer, Jimmy Kets, Stephan Vanfleteren, Sarah Van Marcke, and Rob Walbers.

'Facing Japan' is an initiative of the Flanders Center, celebrating 40 years of cultural activities in Japan.

www.flanders.jp.

Location

Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent

12 June - 13 September 2015

Flanders Center and Museum Dr. Guislain

the Flanders Government and the Japanese Embassy in Belgium

De Standaard

Daikin, Kaneka,

Kuraray and Nippon Shokubai

Period

Organisation

Under the patronage of

Media partner

With the support of

「FACING JAPAN」写真展

「Facing Japan」は、フランダースの最も才能ある写真家 10 名の作品による写真展であり、撮影はすべて、当センター招待による日本滞在中に行われました。本プロジェクトのために写真家はそれぞれ独自のアプローチ方法で、この「遙か東洋の島国の人々」の謎めいた現実に向き合いました。その結果「Facing Japan」では、活気を放出し続ける国で、緊張感と矛盾から生み出される、予想外で魅力的なイメージを捉えることができました。

写真家は、日本を訪れて滞在することを強く望んでいます。しかも長期に渡り滞在したいと。フランダースの写真家と例外ではありません。この国は、この世に写真が存在する限り、想像力と感動をかき立てます。ビジュアルイメージで美と奇抜さの両者を表現するには、日本という国は本当に申し分のない環境です。

とはいえ、ひと言付け加えねばなりません。一般に旅行者に対して、とりわけ写真家に対するもてなしは、心理的に無条件でいつも提供されるわけではありません。日本という鏡は、対峙と抑圧を投影し続けています。日本の精神的価値観が西洋の概念と噛み合わないこともあります。このことが、西洋人の評価をくつがえし、異なる現実を露わにすることもあるのです。「私の世界地図では、日本は活火山だ」と、アントワープ出身の詩人ヤン・ヴァン・ネイレンは自身の古き詩集の中で語っています。

この内在する現実と矛盾こそが、写真家たちがカメラに納めるイメージとして待ち望んでいたものを創造するのです。公益財団法人フランダースセンターの全面サポートのもと、フランダースの写真家 10 名が、困難な課題を引き受け、日本に向き合う“facing Japan”に挑みました。写真家は、マルレーン・ダーニエルス、ニック・ハネス、ミヒール・ヘンドリックス、マルシュカ・ラヴィンネ、トニー・ル・デュック、シャルロット・リペール、ジミー・ケツ、ステファン・ヴァンフレーテレン、サラ・ヴァン・マルクエ、そしてロブ・ワルバースと、若手の有望株からベテランの著名人にいたるまで様々です。

「Facing Japan」写真展は、公益財団法人フランダースセンター発案による企画であり、日本に於ける当センターの文化推進活動が 40 周年を迎えるのを記念する行事でもあります。

[www.flanders.jp.](http://www.flanders.jp/)

会場	Museum Dr. Guislain (ベルギー・ゲント)
会期	2015 年 6 月 12 日(金)~9 月 13 日(日)
主催	公益財団法人フランダースセンター、Museum Dr. Guislain
後援	フランダース政府、在ベルギー日本大使館
メディアパートナー	De Standaard 紙
後援企業	ダイキン工業株式会社、株式会社カネカ、株式会社クラレ、株式会社日本触媒



© Marleen Daniels



© Michiel Hendryckx



© Maroesjka Lavigne



© Rob Walbers

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Special evening: visit of the famous Tolman Collection in Tokyo at TAG bxl

Friday 3 March 2015 – Brussels



I want to thank the Friendship Committee and the TAG gallery for organizing this special pre-opening. I knew the building before it was a gallery and I must say they renovated it pretty well. This extra space allowed me to appreciate the Japanese woodblock art on a different level. What I liked is that there was a word of explanation from a specialist of the collection from Japan and from the gallery owners. After visiting we could enjoy a drink and talk with Japanese and Japan lovers. I will visit the gallery again and will certainly attend other events of the Friendship Committee.

By Yvon Noefnett



Thank you for inviting us for the gallery visit. I liked GOTO san's works and my friend liked TAMEKANE san's ones. We didn't know this gallery's new opening nor these Japanese artists either. This evening was a nice discovery for us, as we could talk to many Japan related people.

By Yuki Ogura



NIPPON EXPORT AWARD REGISTRATION CALL FOR CANDIDATES LAUNCHED

The “Nippon Export Award” is an initiative of the Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in Japan, with the purpose to reward those companies that have made significant achievements in exporting to Japan, importing into Japan or distributing within Japan, Belgian-Luxembourg products/services.

This award is aimed at enhancing the winner’s image in both Belgian-Luxembourg and Japanese markets, and is an incentive for its staff. The winning company will receive an award and will be allowed to mention on all their documents: “Winner of the Nippon Export Award 2015-2016”. The use of Nippon Export Award’s logo will also be granted.

At no cost for your company, the winner can take advantage of :

- › **Media attention:** local media will be invited to the Award ceremony
- › **Press release** to be sent to the Japanese and Belgian-Luxembourg press. Previous winners have enjoyed considerable press coverage both in Japan and abroad.
- › **Possibility of inviting their own guests/business contacts** to the Award ceremony at the Belgian or Luxembourg Embassy (the premier announcement will be made at the BLCCJ gala ball on 19 November at Conrad hotel)
- › **Special feature coverage on BLCCJ website and SNS**

How to apply?

If you are interested, please fill out the attached application document and send us a presentation of your company. The application deadline is Friday, 28 August 2015.

If you think you would know Belgian/Luxembourg or Japanese companies that are entitled for participation in the Award competition, please do not hesitate to circulate the information to them. This award competition is not only open to BLCCJ members, but also to non-members.

Source
BLCCJ

TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION TO APPOINT BELGIUM BASED CEO DIDIER LEROY AS FIRST NON-JAPANESE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Today, Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) recently announced substantial changes to its executive structure in Japan, altering roles of top management.

The changes, which will take effect on 1 April this year, are part of Toyota’s ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable growth and further improve its products and services around the world. They will build on changes made in April 2013, which created business units and reorganized the company’s regional operations

As part of these changes, Mr Didier Leroy, Senior Managing Officer, TMC, CEO Europe Region, and President and CEO Toyota Motor Europe, will be appointed President of Toyota No.1 at TMC. In this responsibility, Mr Leroy will oversee the R&D, manufacturing and sales operations for the North America, Europe and Africa regions; the Japan Sales Business Group; and the Product Planning, Design and Motorsports functions related to the Toyota No.1 regional scope. He will also become the first non-Japanese Executive Vice President of TMC, as well as member of the Board of Directors of TMC, pending formal approval at the 111th General Shareholders Meeting in June. Mr Leroy will continue to be based in Brussels.

Following this change, Dr Johan van Zyl, currently Managing Officer, TMC, CEO, Africa Region, and President and CEO, Toyota South Africa Motors Ltd. (TSAM), will become CEO Europe Region and President and CEO, Toyota Motor Europe (in addition to his current responsibilities). Mr Leroy will be appointed Chairman, Toyota Motor Europe.

Source
Toyota Motor Europe



news from the members

YOKOHAMA PORT CORPORATION

A delegation from Yokohama Port Corporation visited the Port of Antwerp on February 26, 2015. The delegation members are: Mr Youichi Kanno, Senior Advisor; Mr Hiroshi Harada, Assistant Manager Engineer Planning Division; Mr Hajime Masuda, Assistant Manager, Administration Division, Management Dept.; Mr Yasuhiro Nagatsu, Assistant Section Chief, Business Planning Div., Corporate Policy Dept.

The delegation visited the latest facilities and studied the experiences of the Port of Antwerp. They were deeply impressed by the value added logistic services in the port and the excellent hinterland connections of the port. The delegation stressed that the Port of Yokohama has also a strong industry base in and around the port and they have a vast hinterland too. Yokohama is the second largest container port in Japan, the delegation vowed to strengthen the relationship between the two ports.



Mr Frank Geerkens, Port Ambassador of the Antwerp Port Authority and several experts welcomed the delegation.

Source:
Port of Antwerp

BBF SCORES A HAT-TRICK, AND MORE, AT LONDON'S BUSINESS TRAVEL SHOW

Combining the largest portfolio of conveniently located apartments in Brussels with outstanding service at competitive rates, BBF continues to enhance its market position as a major force in the realm of serviced apartments.

With a comprehensive selection of over 1500 properties in Brussels as well as a portfolio of apartments in Budapest, BBF has clearly defined ambitions: "Our aim is to keep on expanding to shape the landscape of temporary housing in Brussels and other European cities. This allows us to serve our customers even

better" explains BBF's Managing Director Joël Vanmellaert, as the company continues to bolster its territorial reach, whilst also consolidating its niche focus around servicing the ever-changing needs of the expat community in Brussels.

Attending industry events is integral to BBF's marketing, operational and growth strategies, and its recent participation at the Business Travel Show 2015 (BTS) at London's iconic Olympia venue is intrinsic to that process.

Membership of the Association of Serviced Apartment Providers (ASAP), the not-for-profit association representing serviced apartment providers principally in the UK and Ireland, as well as internationally, paves the way for compliance with ASAP's Quality Assessment criteria,

giving corporate clients the assurance of adherence to legal, safety, and quality standards. Engaging with ASAP, TAS Alliance and SilverDoor - all trust-instilling entities - enables BBF to deepen the dialogue with what is becoming a more mature and regulated sector. And gathering insights through these affiliations empowers BBF to maintain the agility needed to align its products and services to the mobility and changing needs of the corporate client.

Summarising its auspicious outlook, BBF's Marketing Manager Bernard Kerkhof confidently asserts that "the future looks bright as BBF is becoming the number one choice for many companies when choosing accommodation for their employees".

by Paul Sillerse





news from the members

ANA RECEIVES SKYTRAX'S HIGHEST 5-STAR RATING FOR 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR ANA IS THE ONLY 5-STAR RATED AIRLINE IN JAPAN

For the third consecutive year, ANA Group has been awarded 5-Stars by SKYTRAX*, the world's leading airline and airport review specialists (www.airlinequality.com). Only six other airlines** across the globe hold this prestigious 5-Star rating and ANA is the only Japanese airline to hold this award.

The award recognizes the consistently high levels of service provided by ANA to customers at all stages of their flight, from the airport to the cabin. It also recognizes the ongoing improvements to service quality that ANA has implemented to meet the needs of its increasingly international customer base. ANA is committed to maintaining and improving its standards as the airline continues to expand its business operations and take advantage of the additional international routes at Haneda Airport from spring 2014. Service improvements include:

- › The launch of 'DINING h', a new restaurant inside the ANA SUITE LOUNGE at the Haneda Airport international terminal. This offers the first-ever restaurant dining service by ANA at an airport lounge in Japan.
- › Expansion of ANA's in-flight entertainment channels (movies, audio and other channels), exceeding 300 channels in December 2014 and providing more channels than any other Japanese airline with a variety of languages.

- › ANA has also welcomed four new members, including two foreign chefs, to The Connoisseurs*** team, to provide an even larger range of in-flight meal options. ANA has also developed new in-flight menus in collaboration with well-known overseas hotels to improve the quality of in-flight meals on flights departing from overseas airports to Japan.
- › The Tastes of JAPAN by ANA project**** continues to develop, incorporating ingredients from 17 Japanese prefectures into in-flight meals and lounge cuisine, contributing to the promotion of tourism to Japan and economic growth in Japan's regions by advertising the appeal of destinations across the country.
- › Following extensive customer feedback at both check-in and within airport lounges, ANA has improved staff training and adapted its services to best meet customer needs.
- › In addition to mandatory English-language training for all ANA cabin attendants, phrase books in additional languages have been introduced to improve on-board communication with international passengers.

As an international measure of quality and customer satisfaction the SKYTRAX award is an important part of ANA's business strategy to ensure it is recognized as a

leading airline across the globe. ANA's investment in its network, offer and services is enabling the airline to capture growing demand from international travelers. ANA is committed to providing inspired service as well as safe, high-quality air travel to customers around the world.

Source

www.ana.co.jp/eng/aboutana/press/2014/150320.html

* SKYTRAX, established in 1989, is an airline consulting and rating company based in London, UK. In addition to the Airline Star Ratings, which ranks airlines between 1-Star and 5-Star, the company also organizes the World Airline Awards, which are based on an evaluation of more than 200 airlines assessed each year using SKYTRAX's own online questionnaire and various other customer surveys. The World Airline Awards first recognized ANA in 2011 through the World's Best Airport Services and Staff Service Excellence, Asia Award. ANA collected another World Airline Award in 2012 as Best Transpacific Airline. In 2013 and 2014, ANA was awarded World's Best Airport Services for two consecutive years. ANA was also awarded Best Cabin Cleanliness in 2013 and Best Transpacific Airline in 2014.

** Asiana Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, Garuda Indonesia, Hainan Airlines, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines.

*** The Connoisseurs team now consists of a total of 26 well-known chefs, including four new partners who joined in July 2014. The team provides meals and beverages for customers on international routes (flights departing Japan) and in Premium Class on certain domestic routes.

**** This project aims to introduce customers from around the world to the diverse range of appealing food choices available from around Japan by incorporating them into our in-flight meals and other services.

KURARAY INVESTS 60 MILLION EUROS IN EVAL SUBSIDIARY

The Japanese chemical company Kuraray is to expand the production capacity for ethylene vinyl alcohol (EVOH) of its subsidiary Eval Europe in the port of Antwerp (Zwijndrecht), with an investment of just under 60 million euros. The intention is to boost the EVOH production capacity from 24,000 by a further 11,000 tonnes, an operation which should be completed by the end of 2016. EVOH is a synthetic polymer used for among other things foodstuffs packaging because it affords good protection against oxygen and other gases. The company currently produces 81,000 tonnes of EVOH annually, of which 24,000 tonnes in the port of Antwerp.

"Kuraray considered various sites, but Antwerp stood out thanks

to the quality of its personnel and the local presence of an important centre for production of semi-finished products," explains marketing manager William Reay of Eval Europe. In addition to its subsidiary in Zwijndrecht the Tokyo-based company has plants in Okayama (Japan) and Texas (USA). In the past few years the chemical industry has invested billions of euros in Antwerp, thus ensuring that the port remains the largest and most diverse integrated chemical cluster in Europe.

Source

www.portofantwerp.com/en/news/kuraray-invests-60-million-euros-eval-subsidiary#sthash.1lqEb5ae.dpuf

news from the members

YAMAZAKI MAZAK OPENS ITS EUROPEAN PARTS CENTRE

Yamazaki Mazak has officially opened its newly expanded European Parts Centre in Leuven, Belgium and has announced further investments to strengthen its manufacturing and customer support across the region.

Located in Leuven, Belgium, the Parts Centre has increased its warehouse capacity from 2,700 m² to 4,600m² and is capable of shipping 97% of Mazak parts on the same day.

The new facility has the capacity to ship over 20,000 parts per month with orders being processed 365 days a year. A second



stage of expansion to the Parts Centre is due to complete in 2022 which will increase warehouse capacity to 5,528m².

At the heart of the parts operation is the expanded warehouse, which will hold €7 million of parts in stock and 35,000 parts numbers for machines across the Mazak range, including those that are no longer in production, even for machines older than 30 years of age. Once the scheduled further expansion to the warehouse is completed in 2022, the number of part numbers in stock will double.

The state-of-the-art warehouse is fully automated and equipped with a new “mini-load” system for small parts picking from 8,000 small trays, travelling from 70,000 locations within the warehouse, and a stacker crane system for 3,000 medium to large pallets.

In addition, the new 1,000m² logistical working area will house an automated conveyor belt system and four intelligent work stations. There will also be increased ground floor

storage capacity for very large parts.

The entire facility is integrated into the Mazak network with a high-end parts ordering system which facilitates online ordering from each Mazak office, together with real-time stock visibility for dealers and linked website tracking for shipment status checking.



The European Parts Centre forms part of Mazak's Total Support package, which includes service, spare parts, application engineering support, turnkey project management, training, and spindle servicing. A second phase of expansion for the Parts Centre is scheduled for 2022 to meet projected demand for parts in the European market.

Marcus Burton, European Group Managing Director for Yamazaki Mazak, commented on the opening: “The expanded Parts Centre enhances our European parts capability, offering Mazak customers the most responsive parts ordering and dispatch service in the machine tool sector. The ability to rapidly identify, pick and dispatch spare parts is vital in keeping machines productive. Many of Europe’s most important supply chains are dependent upon Mazak machines and it is vital that spare parts are readily available to maximize productivity and minimize downtime.”

He continued: “The expanded Parts Centre sends a clear message that, for Mazak, aftersales support is an essential part of our on-going commitment to customers and that we will continue to invest in our service and support capabilities.”

Source

www.mazakeu.com/EPC





ROBECOSAM
Sustainability Award
Gold Class 2015



NEWSLETTER

news from the members

PRESS RELEASE

KONICA MINOLTA REWARDED FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT STANDARDS WITH GLOBALLY RENOWNED DISTINCTIONS

Konica Minolta, Inc. has received three globally relevant social responsibility rewards in February 2015, which underline the engagement and leading role of the company in sustainable investment standards.

FTSE4Good Global Index, oekom research "Prime" and RobecoSAM Gold Award – these are the rewards Konica Minolta, Inc. (Konica Minolta) has received this year. These globally relevant indices and awards are remarkable proof points for Konica Minolta who recognizes sustainability as an essential strategic pillar. 'We are pleased to see that our long-term initiatives and efforts are meeting the high industry standards. We use our know-how to create tangible new value in order to resolve the challenges faced by customers and wider society. This is why we are convinced that as a sustainable company it is our duty to create value for both society and ourselves by integrating efforts to resolve social issues and improve corporate competitiveness and profits. The Creation of New Value is one of Konica Minolta's basic principles', says Olaf Lorenz, General Manager International Marketing Division Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe GmbH.

FTSE4Good Global Index for Twelfth Consecutive Year

One of the best known indices in the world for socially responsible investment (SRI) communities, FTSE4Good Global Index by FTSE Group* (FTSE) in the U.K., has again included Konica Minolta in the index. This is the twelfth year in a row that Konica Minolta has earned the recognition. In the most recent evaluation, Konica Minolta has been awarded with a full score in the corporate governance and pollution and resources aspects, as well as high marks in the climate change aspects. FTSE confirms that Konica Minolta has been independently assessed according to the FTSE4Good criteria, and has satisfied the requirements to become a constituent

of the FTSE4Good Index Series. Created by the global index company FTSE, FTSE4Good is an equity index series that is designed to facilitate investment in companies that meet globally recognized corporate responsibility standards. Companies in the FTSE4Good Index Series have met stringent environmental, social and governance criteria, and are positioned to capitalize on the benefits of responsible business practice.

RobecoSAM Gold honours sustainability investment of Konica Minolta

RobecoSAM, based in Switzerland, is an investment specialist focused exclusively on sustainability investment. Recently RobecoSAM has released its annual "Sustainability Yearbook 2015" in which 69 companies are ranked as Gold Class. Five Japanese companies including Konica Minolta are awarded Gold Class. Among the Computers & Peripherals and Office Electronics sector, Konica Minolta is the only Japanese company that ranks Gold Class. In this year's assessment, Konica Minolta has earned the highest evaluation in the Computers & Peripherals and Office Electronics sector for its economic initiatives including innovation management and risk management, as well as for environmental initiatives on climate change strategies, environmental policy and its management. For the second time after 2013, Konica Minolta has now been rewarded the Gold Class Award as one of the top companies in its industry. Economic, environmental and social dimensions have been the categories for the assessment of more than 3,000 of the world's largest companies with a focus on long-term value creation.

oekom research receives "Prime Status" for the fifth time for Konica Minolta

Germany-based oekom research AG (oekom) is one of the world's leading rating agencies and is known for its internationally-acclaimed researches in sustainable investment and sustainability ratings.

In its 2015 Corporate Rating oekom has awarded Konica Minolta "Prime Status" as one of global leading companies for corporate social responsibility within the industry segment of electronic device and appliance. The company has maintained Prime Status for five years since 2011. A company is given Prime Status if it ranks among the best companies in the same industry segment in the overall rating.

About Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe GmbH, based in Langenhagen, Germany, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Konica Minolta Inc., Tokyo, Japan, forming part of its Business Technologies business area. As a leading global services provider in the field of IT- and document processes as well as digital production printing solutions the company excels in services-led business consulting, implementation and management and provides a range of world-leading printing systems and solutions. In this context, Konica Minolta's Optimized Print Services concept (OPS) combines consultancy, hardware, software implementation, and operation in order to enhance business process efficiency and cost-effectiveness. To support customers optimally with powerful and sustainable solutions, technology leader Konica Minolta continuously invests in research and development work and regularly sets new standards. Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe is represented by subsidiaries and distributors in more than 70 countries in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. With over 32,000 employees around the world (as of March 2014), Konica Minolta's Business Technologies business area earned net sales of over EUR 5.4 billion in financial year 2013/14.

For further information about the company, visit www.konicaminolta.eu.

For additional information about Konica Minolta's CSR initiatives, please visit: www.konicaminolta.com/about/csr

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The BJA would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest members:

Corporate Member

Gevaco Advocaten

The foundations of the law firm GEVACO ADVOCATEN were built more than 60 years ago when Mr Hubert Geyskens together with Mr Alfons Vandeurzen established one of the first law associations in Limburg. The continuous strive for a full and qualitative service now results in a legal knowledge center of more than 45 collaborators of which 27 specialized lawyers.



Our law firm constitutes an integrated, multidisciplinary association with overlapping law practices. We offer specialized legal assistance for local and international corporate and private clients in multiple branches of the law.

GEVACO ADVOCATEN brings all the legal knowledge together under one roof.

In 2014 GEVACO ADVOCATEN won the Belgian Legal Awards as 'Best regional law firm 2013'.

In order to welcome our clients in the best possible circumstances, we moved to a new building in April 2015.

Gevaco Advocaten

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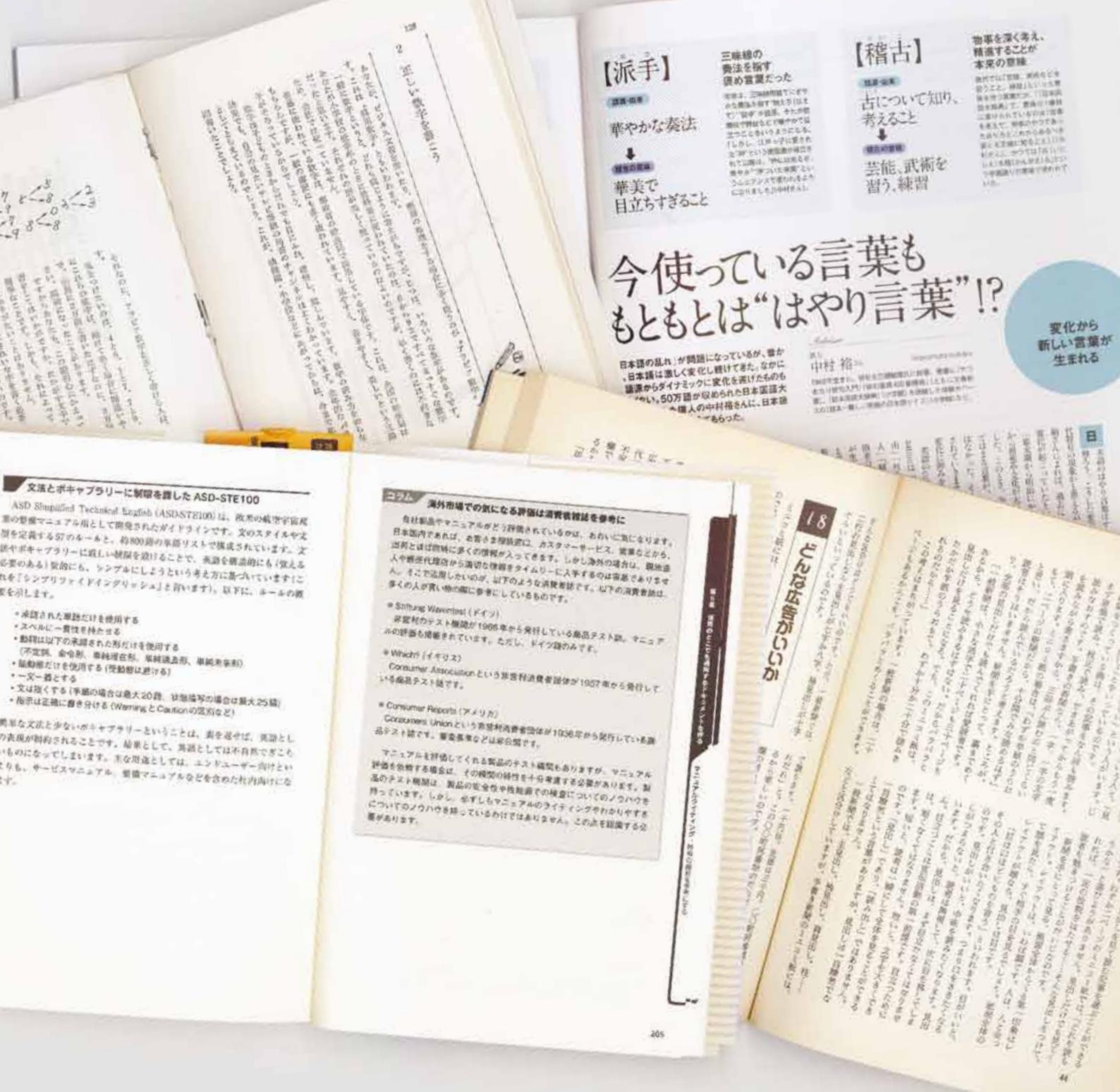
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Current as of December 2010. (Source: Tamron).

* The Sony mount does not include the VC (Vibration Compensation) image stabilization functionality, as the body of Sony digital SLR cameras includes image stabilization functionality.

* This lens is not designed for use with 35mm film cameras and digital SLR cameras with image sensors larger than 24x16mm.