



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



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EDITORIAL

45 Years Daikin Europe: an example of close Belgian - Japanese cooperation

By Mr Frans Hoorelbeke, Chairman and member of the Board of Daikin Europe N.V., and Member of the BJA Board of Directors

It is with great pleasure that I contribute with this editorial. I would like to elaborate on an example of close and successful cooperation between Belgian and Japanese people. It is a story that goes back 45 years now, and that is based on vision, mutual respect and hard work.

It was in 1973 that Daikin Industries Limited decided to build its first factory outside of Japan, in Belgium. Daikin is the global leader in air conditioning, heatpumps, applied systems, and refrigeration. And although the UK was Europe's biggest market at that time, it was Daikin's vision that the European mainland would soon grow in importance. Ostend was therefore selected as a site close to the UK, but with a strong foothold on the continent. Now with Brexit looming, I can say that this choice was really foresight.

At that time, Daikin's investment was one of the first major Japanese foreign direct investments in Belgium, together with Honda. Since then, the Daikin Europe presence in Belgium has kept expanding. First of all, the Ostend site developed into a full-fledged manufacturing plant. We established sales offices throughout the country, and set up the EMEA R&D centre with a branch in Ghent, to stimulate cooperation with universities and start-ups in the domain of the Internet of Things. In 2002, we set up the Daikin EMEA headquarters in Brussels. This location has been chosen in view of Brussels as capital of Europe. Over the years, the number of people directly employed in Belgium for Daikin has grown to almost 2.000 people.

Over the years, Daikin managed to become European market-leader, thanks to the combination of Japanese and Belgian skills. The Japanese qualities, such as having a long-term vision is illustrated in our company focus on the environment and energy saving solutions, while Belgians are good at building international relations and hard work.

In September, we celebrated our 45th anniversary in Belgium. We welcomed many clients and business partners, as well as our staff. There were Belgian and Japanese cultural acts, including the famous pianist Momo Kodama. We were honoured with the presence of H.E. Mr Hayashi, Japanese Ambassador to Belgium, and H.E. Mr Kodama, Japanese Ambassador to the EU. Also several key official and public representatives joined, and we received a personal video address from Belgium's Prime Minister Mr Michel.

During the event, we made donations to 3 Belgian charities. Corporate Social Responsibility has always been part of Daikin's DNA and allows us to be better embedded in local society. The event theme was Wonderful World, to reflect our direction as a visionary innovator, committed to the environment and moving ahead positively. We expect rapid changes in the near future, with challenges, where Japan and Belgium could take a leadership role. For example, related to creating a circular economy, connecting to end-customers and proving total solutions. In this framework, I hope that the upcoming partnership agreement between EU and Japan can further facilitate this.

keep reading on p.10 »



Mr Frans Hoorelbeke

In this issue

- 2 BJA Golf Cup
- 4 Single Permit
- 5 The New Belgian Companies and Associations Code
- 8 News for the members
- 9 EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement Seminar
- 10 EU-Japan news
- 12 Université Libre de Bruxelles Japanese School
- 14 The Salon du Saké in Paris
- 15 News for the members
- 16 Brexit
- 17 YES XI
- 18 News from the members
- 22 Personalia

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contact: BJA Office
avenue Louise 287, box 7
1050 Brussels

info@bjabe
T 02/644 14 05

BJA REPORT

The 14th BJA Golf Cup and Golf Initiation 第14回BJAゴルフコンペとゴルフイニシエーション

Saturday, 15 September 2018 – Rinkven Golf Club



(Left to right) Mr Emmanuel Van Damme, Chief Commercial Officer of Port of Zeebrugge, Mr Hisano Kawachi, Managing Director of Nippon Express Belgium, Mr Shohei Shiraiishi, Head of Brussels Branch of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and Mr Ömer Turna, Partner of EY, all getting ready for their tee-off.



(Left to right) Mrs Anja Oto-Kellens, Executive Director of BJA, Mr Peter Schram, Account Manager of Fujitsu, Mr Willem Janssens, and Mr Filip Merckx, EVP & CFO of imec, enjoying the Cocktail together.



As a winner of the Putting contest among the Golf Initiation participants, Ms Sarah Davidson (center), Coordinator of the Japanese Garden of Hasselt, was thrilled to receive the flight ticket to Japan sponsored by ANA, presented by Mr Omer Turna, Partner of EY and Mrs Mika Matsumoto, Project Manager of BJA.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship by a number of BJA company members and other organizations, BJA had the great pleasure to welcome members and friends at the Rinkven Golf Club in Schilde on Saturday, 15 September 2018 to the 14th BJA Golf Cup and Golf Initiation, followed by prize giving dinner party.

Over 50 enthusiastic guests gathered together to fully enjoy

an initiation into the game of golf or playing 18 holes with pleasant partners under a sunny autumn day. Starting with a delicious lunch before the game, the participants received refreshments during the day, cocktails before the dinner and numerous fantastic prizes to take home with them after dinner.

The EU vs. Japan team competition result brings always an exceptional excitement, and after a magnificent return to victory





by the Japan team for its 7th title last year, everyone was very curious about this year's outcome. The victory of the year 2018 went to the EU team, and Mr Ömer Turna, Partner at EY and the Captain of the EU team was so thrilled to reclaim the winning replica on behalf of his team.

The BJA would like to thank once again wholeheartedly the sponsors for their generosity, and the enthusiastic participation of the members and partners. Thanks to all of you, this annual BJA Golf event was once again a great success!



BJA again deeply thanks Mitsubishi Motors for its generous sponsoring of this event.



The participants to the Golf Initiation keenly listening to the Pro explaining about putting.



Mr Ömer Turna, Partner of EY and the Captain of the EU Team, reclaims the winning replica for the 7th victory for the EU Team.




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Single permit that combines work and residence authorization in Belgium – Final Straight Line

By EY PAS team: Partner Hendrik Serruys and Robin Collard, Senior Manager Marc Mostin and Senior Consultant Julia Tverdochlebova

Background

A European Directive (nr. 2011/98/EU) of 13 December 2011, required the Member States to adopt a single application procedure and a common set of rights for non-EU workers legally residing in a Member State. The deadline to implement the Directive was 25 December 2013.

The implementation process in Belgium was delayed, mainly due the 6th State Reform: the work occupation of Foreign individuals becomes a shared competence between the Federal level (visa/residence authorization) and the Regional level (work authorization). This reform was framed by a cooperation agreement between the 2 levels of governments in order to harmonize the procedure of work authorization and visa (residence) application.

Current procedure

The employer should apply and obtain a work authorization (called work permit B towards the worker) prior to be allowed to occupy the Foreigner on the Belgian territory. This authorization should be asked to the Region competent for the main place of occupation.

Afterwards the individual holder of a work authorization needs to apply separately for a long stay Visa at the Belgium representation in the country of residence of the individual, in order to enter the territory for work purpose.

However such procedure is no longer in conformity with the aforementioned European legislation for the occupation of non EEA citizens.

New Procedure

1. WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW PROCEDURE?

- › The new procedure is applicable for non-EU nationals seeking to work and

reside in Belgium for longer than 90 days.

- › The employee will introduce the application for the single permit via his employer.

Remark: This is not applicable for:

- › EEA + Swiss national: general exemption based on the free movement principles;
- › non-EU nationals seeking to work and reside in Belgium for maximum 90 days;
- › non-EU nationals coming to Belgium with other purposes than work, f.e studies, family reunification, ...

2. SINGLE PROCEDURE:

- › The future employer applies both authorizations (work & residence) in a unique form sent to the competent Region, but each region can determine its own regulation / conditions on the work authorization (e.g. required documents, forms, validity duration, quota...).
- › Once the Region has declared the application admissible, the file is transferred to the Immigration Office within the 15 days of the notification of the admissibility.
- › The application will then be processed in parallel by the 2 authorities: the Region and the Immigration Office (Federal); each entity will inform the other with the content of their decision.
- › The maximum processing duration is 4 months from the notification of the admissibility.
- › The positive decision on both work and stay will be notified by the Immigration Office to the employer, the employee and the embassy (and in some exceptional situations, the Belgian municipality or residence).

- › The employee will get a visa at the embassy.

Remark: Each decision implies the possibility of an appeal (for work authorization at the Regional Minister or for the residence aspect at the Council for Aliens Law Litigation).

3. THE SINGLE PERMIT COMBINES WORK AND RESIDENCE AUTHORIZATION IN 1 SINGLE DOCUMENT

- › When the single permit will be delivered: at the town hall of residence, upon arrival in Belgium.

Remark: Work permits granted before the entry into force of the new procedure remain valid until their expiration date.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- › Renewal application: also the single application procedure.
- › The renewal application must be introduced 2 months before the expiry date.
- › Work permit C will no longer exist. The information about the access on the labor market will be mentioned on the residence document.

Entry into force

The entry into force of the single permit procedure is expected for January 1st, 2019. No transitional period is foreseen.

Next steps

A few last legislative Acts need to be adopted before the single permit will fully enter into force. In this respect EY will scrutinize the concrete application of the new procedure and will keep you closely informed about any further relevant updates.

If you have any question regarding the new procedure do not hesitate to contact one of the EY contacts above.



Basic scheme of the new procedure

The New Belgian Companies and Associations Code: practical consequences for Japanese businesses - 日本企業への影響

Thursday, 27 September 2018 – Linklaters LLP, Brussels



Mr Jae Suk Vanwijngaerden, Managing Associate Corporate M&A, Linklaters LLP, opening the seminar

The attentive audience asked many questions and took abundant notes.

Mrs Astrid De Winne, Associate M&A, Jones Day, Mr Wim Eynatten, International Tax Partner & Japanese Services Group Belgium Leader, Deloitte and Mr Thomas De Muynck, Partner M&A, Jones Day, discussing legal and tax implications of the new legislation.

On 27 September 2018, the Belgium-Japan Association & Chambers of Commerce, the law firms Linklaters LLP and Jones Day, together with Deloitte, organised a seminar on the expected New Belgian Companies and Associations Code at the offices of Linklaters LLP in Brussels.

Following at networking light lunch, Jae Suk Vanwijngaerden (Managing Associate Corporate M&A, Linklaters LLP), Thomas De Muynck (Partner M&A, Jones Day) and Astrid De Winne (As-

sociate M&A, Jones Day) focused on the expected practical consequences of the new Code for Japanese businesses with presence in Belgium or planning to come to Belgium. Wim Eynatten (International Tax Partner & Japanese Services Group Belgium Leader, Deloitte and Chairman BJA Legal & Tax Committee, Deloitte) touched upon tax consequences of the reform.

The event was highly appreciated by the more than 40 attendees.



ARTICLE

The New Belgian Companies and Associations Code: practical consequences for Japanese businesses

By Jae Suk Vanwijngaerden [Managing Associate Corporate M&A, Linklaters LLP] and Astrid De Winne [Associate M&A, Jones Day]

An extensive legislative reform of Belgian company law is underway, aiming to modernise the rules and make Belgium a more flexible and attractive place of incorporation for both national and foreign companies. The reform will have an impact on all legal entities in Belgium. The Belgian government has prepared a New Belgian Companies and Associations Code, which has been submitted to Parliament. It is expected to be approved before the end of 2018 and to enter into force in the second quarter of 2019. As the Council of State recently issued a very critical advice on the proposal, the approval and entry into force may be (further) postponed.

The main drivers of the reform have been observations that Belgian company law is currently at some points unnecessarily strict, unclear and rigid, making it less attractive than company law in other countries in Europe. The intention is to modernise Belgian company law and make it more attractive by simplifying rules, introducing more flexibility and adding clarifications.

The new Code will also integrate the rules on non-profit associations which are now governed by a separate law.

This article touches upon a few selected topics which are expected to be of particular relevance for Japanese businesses with a presence in Belgium or planning to come to Belgium. It is limited to the SA/NV and the SRL/BV (which will replace the SPRL/BVBA) which most probably will be/remain the most commonly used company forms.

Shareholders and Shareholders' Meetings

It will be possible to have a single shareholder in the SA/NV and the SRL/BV while retaining limited liability for such a shareholder. Currently, in company groups, one share in Belgian entities is often "parked" with another group entity to meet the requirement to have at least two shareholders. This causes additional paperwork for shareholders' resolutions, dividend distributions, and corporate restructurings and sometimes leads to confusion when such single share is not mentioned in the group chart.

The new Code will make multiple voting rights possible while currently the "one share, one vote" rule prevails. Multiple voting rights could be a useful instrument when setting up joint ventures in Belgium and will allow listed companies to reward loyal shareholders by giving them a double voting right compared to shareholders who have only recently acquired shares. Under the new Code a shareholder can be excluded from the losses of the company, while under the current regime this is not possible. This has led to some discussion regarding the validity of put options to the extent such options protect shareholders against any losses. Under the new Code there should

no longer be uncertainty over the validity of put options in this respect.

Other notable proposed changes are (i) the abolition of the obligation to convene the holders of non-convertible bonds to shareholders' meetings, and (ii) the possibility for companies to indicate a website and email address in their articles of association and officially communicate with their shareholders via email.

Board of Directors

At board level, there will be the option of having a board or a single director, which could make decision making in a group company more flexible. For an SA/NV a "real" two tier level will be possible with an observatory board nominated by the shareholders' meeting and a management board nominated by the observatory board. The scope of daily management will be broadened.

It will be possible to deviate from the rule that a director can be removed at all times by the shareholders' meeting without any notice period or severance (the so called "ad nutum" dismissal). Under the new Code it will be possible to agree severance arrangements with a director in advance.

Other practical changes will be: (i) in general, it will be permissible to make board decisions by unanimous written consent, it being understood that a board should still regularly meet for discussions, and (ii) in the case of a conflict of interest of a board member, such board member cannot participate in the deliberations and decision making on the topic for which the conflict of interest exists.

Directors' Liability

The new Code introduces a liability cap for directors. This cap applies irrespective of the number of plaintiffs or the number of directors involved, as long as it relates to the same facts or set of facts. The same cap applies should a certain decision of a board of directors with five members harm 20 different persons or should only one director of the company harm one person. Depending on the size of the company (revenue and assets), the liability of its directors will be capped at €250,000, €1,000,000, €3,000,000 or €12,000,000. The idea behind this maximum liability is two-fold: it is an attempt, on the one hand, to attract more skilled management and, on the other hand, to improve the insurability of directors' liability. The drawback to the introduction of the cap is that a company is no longer allowed to provide any prior waiver, limitation or indemnification to directors. However, a company may still pay D&O insurance premiums for its directors and shareholders or a parent company may continue to provide indemnification for the directors.

Under the new Code, it is clarified that not only the members of the board of directors can incur director's liability, but also the de facto directors of the company, as well as the managing directors. The liability cap applies equally to de facto directors and managing directors.

Capital and Distribution

Probably the biggest change in the reform of the new Code is the abolition of the "capital" concept in the SRL/BV. The idea behind capital is the protection of creditors. However, having a high share capital does not necessarily mean that a certain company is doing well or that its creditors are sufficiently protected. By abolishing "capital", "equity" will become key in any SRL/BV, as a result of which a company will need to ensure its positive equity position – more assets than liabilities – and the going-concern of its activities. Prior to any distribution, an SRL/BV must comply with a net assets test and a liquidity test. These are both tests based on economic realities and will therefore better protect creditors. The net asset test implies that no distribution can be decided if the net assets of the company would become negative due to such distribution. The liquidity test means that, after the contemplated distribution, the company must be able to pay its debts when due for a period of (minimum) 12 months, taking into account the reasonably expected developments. For instance, the maturity of a substantial loan in a few months must be taken into account prior to any distribution.

In the SA/NV, the existing net asset test remains, which means that no distribution can be decided if the equity would, as a result thereof, fall below the statutory capital plus the unavailable reserves. This exercise is done based on the last annual accounts. Although there is no liquidity test as such in the SA/NV, the board of directors has already under current law a duty of care and thus needs to take the going concern of the company into account when proposing any distribution.

One of the other remarkable changes is that the board of directors of both the SA/NV and the SRL/BV will be entitled to distribute profits of the last fiscal year if the accounts have not yet been approved by the shareholders. This is in addition to the distribution of profits of the current fiscal year and the distribution of profits carried forward from previous years, which is already allowed for the SA/NV under the current companies code.

SRL/BV

The reform will have the biggest impact on the SPRL/BVBA which will be replaced by the SRL/BV. As mentioned above, the abolition of capital is the major change. As a consequence, the requirement to have a "minimum capital" will be eliminated

too. In order to ensure that an SRL/BV is sufficiently funded at the time of its incorporation, the new Code requires founders to establish a detailed financial plan justifying the amount of the starting funds, taking into account the contemplated activities over a period of at least two years. A similar requirement already exists under the current companies code but the content of such a financial plan will become more detailed and substantive. Where the company goes bankrupt within three years of incorporation, the founders can be held liable to the extent the starting funds were manifestly insufficient for the normal exercise of the contemplated activities.

The SRL/BV will also become more flexible. As an example, shares of an SRL/BV may be listed under the new Code and it will become possible to transfer shares freely in an SRL/BV, which is currently not the case for an SPRL/BVBA. An SRL/BV will furthermore be able to issue all types of securities, including warrants and convertible bonds.

Another change is the possibility for an SRL/BV to have daily managers, which is currently only possible in the SA/NV. As many Japanese companies have chosen the SA/NV for this reason, this amendment to the current companies code may trigger Japanese companies to consider opting for the SRL/BV.

Entry into Force

It is expected that the new Code will enter into force in the second quarter of 2019, subject to the caveat made in the introduction of this article. As from then, new companies will need to comply with the new Code and no company can be incorporated in a legal form that will be abolished (e.g. SCS/Comm. V and SCRI/CVOA).

For existing companies there will be a transitional period which is expected to run from 1 January 2020 until 1 January 2024. As from 1 January 2020 all mandatory provisions will apply to existing companies, even if their articles of association have not yet been updated. All optional provisions will also apply insofar as they are not contrary to the provisions of the existing articles of association.

Existing companies will have until 1 January 2024 to adapt their articles of association. However, if they modify their articles of association for any reason in the transitional period, then the entire articles of association will need to be updated to bring them in line with the new Code. For instance, a capital increase or decrease will result in the obligation to update the articles of association entirely.

Existing companies will be able to "opt in" so that the new Code will apply to them before 1 January 2020.

INTERNATIONAL CAR OPERATORS INAUGURATES BRAND NEW OFFICES

On 12 September ICO celebrated the inauguration of the new offices and terminal expansion in the presence of Bart Tommelein, Vice Minister President and Flemish Minister for Finance, Budget and Energy, Renaat Landuyt, Mayor of Bruges and Chairman Port of Zeebrugge, Joachim Coens, Managing Director Port of Zeebrugge, Marc Adriansens, Managing Director ICO, Svein Steimler, Chairman ICO, President and CEO NYK Group Europe and Corporate Officer NYK Group and the NYK top management, Takaya Soga, Managing Corporate Officer NYK Line and Hiroki Harada, Managing Corporate Officer NYK Line.

The new central gate building accommodates operational and corporate departments to improve both efficiency and communication. The building has 5 levels of 9000m² and houses 150 employees. ICO is also proud of the reconstruction of the Bruges Toyo Ito pavilion next to ICO's new building. It is a symbolic link between Bruges and Japan. ICO is owned by NYK. Furthermore, International Car Operators has signed earlier this year a concession agreement with the Port of Zeebrugge

for a 54-hectare expansion of the Bastenaken car terminal. The new terminal will have a surface of 200 hectares (totalling about 300 hectares in Zeebrugge) with a quay wall allowing up to 16 vessels to operate simultaneously. This expansion will also aim at connecting the existing Hanze-terminal with the Bastenaken-terminal, enabling traffic arriving at the terminal to enter via the single newly constructed gate building located adjacent to the A11 motor way.

In addition to the solar panels in place and the ongoing installation of led lighting, 2019 will see the erection of up to 11 windmills, turning the terminal into a "Green" terminal.

Whilst supplying clean electricity to the local community, power will be used to supply a planned considerable number of electrical loading stations in light of the increase in electrical private car sales.

Source: www.portofzeebrugge.be/en/news-events/international-car-operators-inaugurates-brand-new-offices



CULTURE
WITH JAPANESE
INSPIRATION

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- MULTILINGUAL
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- EVENTS
- GIFTS

COMMUNICATION
WITH DIGITAL
INSPIRATION

EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement Seminar Organized by AWEX, BI&E and FIT and supported by the BJA

Wednesday, 3 October 2018 - Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU, Brussels



H.E. Kazuo Kodama, Japanese Ambassador to the EU, explained Japan's perspective of the EPA

Mr Jean-Luc Dematry, Director-General for Trade in the European Commission, explained the EU's perspective of the EPA

Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner at Linklaters LLP and BJA Vice-President, moderated the Q&A session

The BJA had the pleasure to support and invite the members to an in-depth seminar on the EU-Japan EPA and its consequences for Belgian companies, organized by the 3 regional Belgian trade agencies: AWEX, BI&E and FIT.

This seminar was aimed at Belgian companies exporting (or wishing to export) their products and services to Japan. Its purpose was to give them a comprehensive and multi-angled view of the new Economic Partnership agreement between the EU and Japan. More than 100 guests attended.

After some opening words, Ambassador Kodama of the Mission of Japan to the EU gave Japan's perspective on the EPA, followed by

Mr Jean Luc Dematry, Director-General for Trade in the European Commission for the EU's perspective. Mr Marco Chirullo, EU Negotiator then offered some technical insights on the agreement, before giving the floor to Mr Luc Verhaege, PFS Customs, for some explanation on the REX registration, and to Mrs Reiga Shimizu of DS Avocats for the legal aspects of exporting under the new EPA.

The seminar ended by 3 presentations on the Belgian companies' expectations on the EPA by business representatives from AGORIA, ESSENSCIA, and FEVIA and with some closing words from Mr Michel Kempeneers, COO of Awex. Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner at Linklaters LLP, and BJA Vice-President, moderated the Q&A session.



EU-Japan news

**EUROPEAN TRAVEL INFORMATION AND AUTHORISATION SYSTEM (ETIAS):
COUNCIL ADOPTS REGULATION**

On 5 September 2018 the Council adopted a regulation establishing a European travel information and authorisation system (ETIAS).

ETIAS is an important tool to reinforce the control of the EU's external border and the protection of our citizens. It will allow to identify those who may pose a security threat before they reach the European Union and deny them the authorisation to travel.

ETIAS will allow for advance checks and, if necessary, deny travel authorisation to visa-exempt third-country nationals travelling to the Schengen area. It will help improve internal security, prevent illegal immigration, protect public health and reduce delays at the borders by identifying persons who may pose a risk in one of these areas before they arrive at the external borders.

Functioning of the system

The system will apply to visa-exempt third country nationals. They will need to obtain a travel authorisation before their trip, via an online application. For each application, the applicant will be required to pay a travel authorisation fee of 7 euros.

The information submitted in each application will be automatically processed against EU and relevant Interpol databases to determine whether there are grounds to refuse a travel authorisation. If no hits or elements requiring further analysis are identified, the travel authorisation will be issued automatically and quickly. This is expected to be the case for most applications.

If there is a hit or an element requiring analysis, the application will be handled manually by the competent authorities. In this case, the ETIAS central unit will first check that the data

recorded in the application file corresponds to the data triggering a hit. When it does or where doubts remain, the application will be processed manually by the ETIAS national unit of the responsible member state. The issuing or refusal of an application which has triggered a hit will take place no later than 96 hours after the application is submitted or, if additional information has been requested, 96 hours after this information has been received.

Before boarding, air carriers and sea carriers will need to check whether third country nationals subject to the travel authorisation requirement are in possession of a valid travel authorisation. From three years after the entry into operations of ETIAS this obligation will also apply to international carriers transporting groups overland by coach.

The travel authorisation will not provide an automatic right of entry or stay; it is the border guard who will take the final decision.

A travel authorisation will be valid for three years or until the end of validity of the travel document registered during application, whichever comes first.

Next steps

The Council and the European Parliament now need to sign the adopted regulation. The signed text will be published in the EU Official Journal and will enter into force 20 days later. eu-LISA, is expected to start building the new system, which should be operational by 2021.

Source: www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/09/05/european-travel-information-and-authorisation-system-etias-council-adopts-regulation/

» keep reading from p.1

On a personal note, I can say that I witnessed the development of Belgian and Japanese cooperation from close by. Daikin Europe developed its own culture, a mix of Japanese elements like trust, long-term vision, teamwork, consensus, loyalty, and of local elements like language skills, diplomacy, hardworking and easy to meet foreign people. I look forward to the many opportunities that still lie ahead of us. Recently, I had the privilege to be decorated with a Royal distinction for the contributions of our company to Belgian society. It is one of the big highlights in my 42 years at Daikin.

I believe that Daikin's 45 years in Belgium demonstrate how Belgian and Japanese cooperation creates a strong foundation for a real success story. I call upon all of you to continue to deepen these relations, not only in business, but also in cultural interactions.

MINISTER REYNDERS OPENS INVESTMENT SEMINAR ON 31 OCTOBER IN OSAKA

By Mr Brent Van Tassel, First Secretary, Head of Economic Affairs of the Embassy of Belgium in Japan

After a successful investment seminar in Tokyo on 22 February 2018, the Embassy of Belgium in Tokyo organized a second edition of the “Invest in Belgium” Seminar on 31 October 2018 in Osaka. The Kansai region is the economic hub of Japan, where many important Japanese investors in Belgium have their headquarters. In order to mark the importance of the Kansai region for Belgium, Minister Reynders officially opened the second edition of the “Invest in Belgium” seminar in Osaka. During his speech, the Minister emphasized Belgium’s global attractiveness as the third most globalized economy in the world, offering a highly accommodating economic, political and social environment for foreign investors. Belgium also scores high on headquarters and holding companies and features as a top global logistical hub. Earlier in 2018, the World Bank ranked Belgium the third most “logistically friendly” country in the world, reflecting the complex, multi-modal integration of our roads, rails, airports, rivers and harbors. Belgium boasts also top quality scientific research institutions. The World Economic Forum ranks Belgium’s research institutions in the top 10 of globally innovating research centers. And only a few weeks ago, Reuters listed Belgium’s Catholic University of Leuven

as the world’s first non-US university in terms of innovation.

The seminar was organized with great help and guidance of the Kansai Economic federation, Kankeiren, as co-organizer, as well as from Jetro Osaka and succeeded in bringing together almost 70 interested attendees from various sectors and companies.

As was already the case on the occasion of the successful Investment Seminar in Tokyo, AWEX, Brussels Invest & Export and Flanders Investment & Trade all provided a comprehensive picture of the opportunities for Japanese investors in Belgium and Belgian tax expert Marc De Mil, Fiscal Cell Foreign Investments (Ministry of Finance), gave an insightful keynote speech about the “New Fiscal Policy of the Federal Government of Belgium”, focusing on the implementation and structural reform of the corporate taxation, decreasing the nominal corporate taxation base from 34 to 29% this year, with further decrease to 25% in 2020.

During his visit to Japan, Minister Reynders also discussed with many Japanese captains of industry about their concerns related to Brexit and reassured them that Belgium offers new opportu-



nities and specific support to Japanese companies that wish to maintain a stable and predictable foothold in the European internal market and close to European decision-making. The Minister also discussed the implementation of the EPA and he had various meetings with business leaders from Osaka and Tokyo.

In Tokyo, Minister Reynders also had a working dinner with Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono during which Brexit and bilateral trade and market access issues were raised, as well as ways to cooperate with Japan when Belgium will be a member of the UN Security Council in 2019-2020. The Minister also travelled to Hiroshima in the context of Belgium’s multilateral efforts to support nuclear non-proliferation.

Belgium remains a close friend and reliable partner for Japan, the bilateral relations have diversified and deepened unabated over centuries and will further continue to do so.



The Japanese Program at the Université Libre de Bruxelles

By Mr Pierre Bonneels, Doctoral Researcher at EAST and Cool Japan Ambassador

Since the beginning of the 2016 academic year, it has been possible for students at the Faculty of Arts, Translation and Communication as well as the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), to learn more about the Japanese culture and language. Bachelor students of Modern Languages and students of Letters can now choose Japanese as their second language of choice (in combination with English, Dutch or German). Moreover, as Japanese is also offered as an introductory language to bachelor students in Information and Communication, History, Art History and Archaeology and Philosophy, no prior knowledge is required. Master students in Translation and Interpretation as well as master students in Modern Languages and Letters are also able to benefit from this unique opportunity. The option is



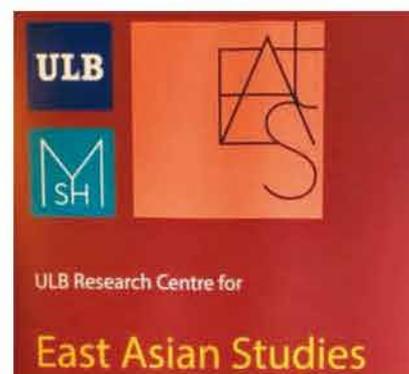
also available for students in Master of Translation and Interpretation, Master of Modern Languages and Letters and Master of Multilingual Communication. This is truly unique among the French-speaking Universities in Belgium.

Furthermore, students are also able to visit Japan throughout the year, as more than ten universities in Japan work together with the ULB. There are agreements with Waseda University, Chuo University, International Christian University, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (NUFS), Aichi Prefectural University, Doshisha University, Nanzan University, Kobe University, Kyoto University for Foreign Studies, Seinan Gakuin University and Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies. These connections make it possible to finance students' stays overseas. It seems clear that the ULB is keen to forge strong ties with Japan.

By integrating the study of Japanese into their teaching program, the ULB Faculty of Arts, Translation and Communication aims to offer students the possibility to learn more about the diversity of languages and cultures in the world. As a Cool Japan ambassador, I, Pierre Bonneels, went to talk with Prof. Shizuka Watanabe, Prof. Vanessa Frangville and Doc. Takeshi Morisato to find out more about what is happening at the ULB.

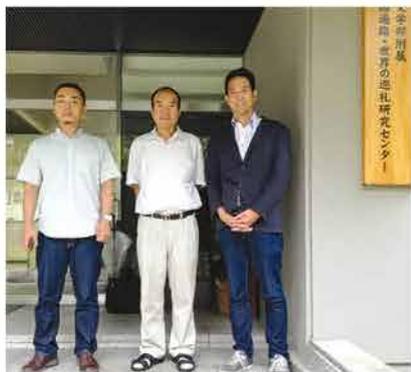
Prof. Shizuka Watanabe teaches Japanese language and Culture at the ULB Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication. Prof. Vanessa Frangville teaches Chinese and Asian Studies at the ULB's Faculty of Letters and is the Director of EAST, a ULB's Research Centre that focuses on North East and South East Asia. Doc. Takeshi Morisato is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at EAST, conducting research as part of the wider EAST's GENEsYs project, which aims at articulating the philosophical significance of the Shikoku pilgrimage as a kind of 'religious experience' contributing to the constitution of youth self-identity in Japan.

I asked Prof. Watanabe, who not long ago welcomed students from Tokyo Woman's University in Brussels, how she sees the future of the BA Japanese Program. Prof. Watanabe answered the following: 'There is a lot of room for expansion be-



tween the Japanese and francophone community and the ULB is a well-positioned French-speaking University that has strong ties already with Waseda University.' (Waseda's office for Europe is located at the ULB). As for Prof. Vanessa Frangville, I asked why she thinks EAST is important: 'Japan has played and still plays a major role on the international scene as well as in the Asian region. Understanding Asia without Japan is pointless. Apprehending Japan without considering its relationships with other Asian countries is irrelevant or insufficient.' That is why a Centre that focuses on North East and South East Asia is crucial. Frangville reminds us of how her 'contributions to the study of Japan are made mainly through teaching Japanese arts, film and hosting Japanese scholars from all over the world'. She continues: 'I believe it is crucial to build our students' knowledge of Japan through direct exchanges with Japanese experts and Japanese peers, and I hope for more opportunities for such interactions.' Prof. Watanabe agreed and added that 'the ULB provides capable, francophone, Japanese-speaking graduates to businesses in an age of rising business opportuni-





ties between Japan-EU. This increases the chances of hiring well-educated francophone graduates with a proficiency in Japanese and a solid understanding of Japanese society, tradition & culture in the future’.

Intrigued by this evolution, I wanted to know more about the kind of research that was being done about Japan at EAST. I interviewed Doc. Takeshi Morisato who had just returned from Japan where he met with peers from the Research Center for Shikoku Henro and Pilgrimages of the World. His field research was part of the ‘GENEsYs’ on East Asian Youth: Identities and Practices in Public Spaces. This project was funded by the ULB who offered EAST a grant of €680,000 back in 2016.

Takeshi Morisato explained that ‘the purpose of this project is to provide a conceptual framework in which we can talk about the Shikoku pilgrimage as a kind of [religious experience,] contributing to the constitution of youth self-identity in Japan’. He continues: ‘The conventional framework that we often see in modern and contemporary philosophy of the West tends to draw a rigid distinction between the public and the private; the communal and the individual; the secular and the religious; the rational and the irrational; and so forth. In this worldview, the individual forges his/her own way forward, determining whether he/she becomes religious (and/or irrational).’ [...] ‘Through closely analysing the works of contemporary Japanese philosophers – both from the Kyoto School and beyond, this research aims to introduce a philosophical framework that can shed

light on the pilgrimage as a dynamic process of becoming human (“humanization”) in the East Asian and Japanese context.’ In order to secure a future for Japanese Studies at the university, Doc. Morisato suggests to ‘construct a solid language program that is connected to other fields of studies, build a decent library, and guide students to visit and experience life in Japan’.

The ULB aims to do just this with their new, Japanese program. Anyone who would like to support their upcoming projects, please do not hesitate to do so. It is an important step forward in the field of Japanese studies. We, therefore, hope the ULB will keep up the good work and inspire and motivate many others to be a part of this pivotal moment in the study of Japanese language and culture in Belgium.



The Salon du Saké in Paris

By Mr Dirk De haene, Editorial Committee member, managing director of OSKAR D & HopSaké

At OSKAR D we have been working for more than 25 years for Konishi brewery, a traditional family-run (since 1550!) sake brewery. Being the main importer of Belgian specialty beers, we designed their on- and offline catalogues and various POS materials.

Being sake-lovers for years and feeling the growing interest in this delicate Japanese beverage, Kristien and I recently started 'HopSaké' at first as a hobby project, organising foodpairing evenings for smaller groups of friends. That's why the idea started to do something with Konishi's sake here in Belgium, teaching people how to combine various kinds of sake with our local cuisine. Together with Hans Rubens (Het Anker brewery) we could ship a selection of Konishi sake to Belgium. Teaming up with IBASHO gallery in Antwerp, we participated at their yearly Japan Market. At one of these tasting sessions we met Mrs Cathy Yamada, sake sommelier at Les Saveurs de Yamada, a very nice Japanese restaurant in Antwerp with a slight French fusion twist. Mrs Yamada recently received a sake sommelier degree at the 'Academie du Saké' in France and introduced us to the annual Salon du Saké in Paris, now already the fifth edition of this European fair for sake and Japanese beverages.

Sake becoming hot in Europe

Europe is currently experiencing an exceptional growth of sake imports, of a magnitude exceeding the one experienced in Asia and exceeding by far that of North America!

In 2017, Japanese exports of sake to Europe increased by 28% in volume terms and by 21% in value; exports to France alone expanded by 57% in volume terms.

The 'Academie du Saké' (Sake Academy) and Mr Sylvain Huet, the Salon du Saké organizers, are pleased to see that, beyond being very much in fashion, the ever growing fancy for sake in France and elsewhere in Europe is actually at the core of a fundamental trend. This is evidenced notably by the growth of imports of sake from Japan achieved last year, which reached a new record level. According to Japan's Finance Ministry, in

2017, Japan's exports of sake rose by 19% worldwide, 28% to Europe and 57% (an exceptionally high level) to France alone.



Foodpairing workshop with topchef Ryohei Kawasaki
© Salon du Saké

French sake by Les Larmes du Levant

Some 60 Japanese sake producers/makers travelled personally from Japan to attend the fifth Salon du Sake, along with their best 'nihonshu' (sake), not to mention that a number of sake from the United States and Spain, and for the first time from France (!), also came as exhibitors.

As Mr Sylvain Huet, organizer of the Salon du Saké, underlines: *"I am very pleased to find out that as we had been proceeding from one Salon to the next, the Salon du Saké in Paris has become an inescapable, if not a "must" event for meetings and networking among all the key players in the trade in Europe as well as in Japan."*



Ms Akiko Konishi of Konishi brewery

Lots of information, many new contacts ...

Foodpairing with Western cuisine

During the event we participated in a workshop by Mr Ryohei Kawasaki, chef at the Ken Kawasaki restaurant in Paris, recently awarded a Michelin star. He treated us on a 5 courses French menu with a Japanese twist, paired with matching sake. It convinced us once more of the variety and richness of sake, and how surprisingly well you can combine this subtle beverage with our own cuisine!

Source: <http://salon-du-sake.fr>

More info: www.hopsake.be or [facebook.com/hopsake.be](https://www.facebook.com/hopsake.be)



Mr Sylvain Huet in front of all participants
© Salon du Saké



UNITED FUND FOR BELGIUM HELPS COMPANIES TO HAVE A TANGIBLE LASTING SOCIAL IMPACT IN BELGIUM

United Fund for Belgium collects donations from companies, organizations and private individuals. 100% of the funds collected are fully distributed to local charities that are active all over Belgium to support them realizing their projects. UFB finances social projects in 4 different areas: child welfare, support to people with disabilities, fight against poverty and social integration. Meanwhile, this would not be possible without the help of donors who include many members of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce such as Toyota Motor Europe, Japan Tobacco International, Linklaters or Marsh & McLennan. This year, Toyota Motor Europe hosted the handover ceremony during which € 701.000 donations were distributed to 77 charities all over the country.

Do you want to give back to the Community in Belgium?

United Fund for Belgium will help you do so in a professional manner, guaranteeing that 100% of the donation goes directly to the beneficiaries and with a strict control of expenses.

For more than 40 years UFB helps people in need all over Belgium. There are many reasons why UFB deserves your support. The first one is that 100% of the allocated funds are redistributed to concrete projects such as vehicles, adapted equipment, ... This is possible thanks to a private fund that finances the functioning of the UFB as well as to the organization of some events. Therefore, we are proud to say that your generosity will go directly to those who need it the most. Secondly, every proposed project is carefully selected and is visited on the field. We can claim a real proximity with people on the ground and are able to identify which projects will have a direct and concrete impact for the people who need it the most. Lastly, our action gives the possibility to support a lot of small and medium sized associations. As we are close to the beneficiaries, this reinforces the feeling of proximity. We offer them a chance to really become visible and to matter.

This year, Toyota hosted the 2018 Handover Ceremony. On 26 June, the company transformed its main office into a big venue for an event during which the associations, whose project has been selected by the UFB Allocations Committee, were able to participate to the annual handover ceremony. This event is not

only an excellent networking opportunity for the associations, but also for the donors as it is an ideal way to meet each other and stay connected with the communities.

Handover Ceremony at Toyota Handover Europe -2018

An example of a project UFB is supporting is "La Cité Joyeuse" which helps children in difficulty. The association welcomes children living in a difficult family situation or who are suffering different types of disabilities. The multidisciplinary team of the Cité Joyeuse aims at improving the quality of life as well as the social integration of the children. UFB supported the furniture for the creation of their day-care department. It gave them the possibility to create a cozy, warm and familial environment to work with the children, a corner for board games as well as a corner for children to be creative and hang drawings, share gifts or other good memories. The organization said that UFB funds gave them the possibility to create "a warm place with a team that actively mobilizes around the project of the young person and his or her family. (...) A place that simply lives, leaves impressions, that can accommodate moments of doubts and fears. But also, a place where the days are made of laughter, football games, self-reflection and the desire of a multidisciplinary team to always give the fullest of themselves for the well-being of youth."

How can you help us?

By making a donation to UFB's account: BE71 9530 0000 0369 – UFB. This can be done spontaneously, to celebrate a special event or on a regular basis. We provide tax deductibility from € 40 onwards and accept bank transfers, standing orders and testamentary wills. You can also join the companies that trust us and associate UFB with their internal and external actions or events. If you wish to do so, do not hesitate to contact us to talk about your project. Lastly, you can support our actions through sales of dedicated products and participate in events under our banner (such as the 20 km of Brussels). Your company wishes to support social causes in Belgium? United Fund for Belgium can help you in a professional way.

Contact

C. Alexandre, Executive Director UFB
calexandre@ufb.be, tel +32 475 919103

UFB REDISTRIBUTES OVER €700.000 AND SUPPORTS MORE THAN 80 PROJECTS EACH YEAR.



BREXIT: Belgium as an alternative regional head-quarter location

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

With the deadline of 29 March 2019, and as yet [on the date of writing this article, i.e. 5 October 2018] no exit deal agreed between the UK and the EU, it is understandable that more companies are now actively assessing what the impact will be on their business. The UK government is still working towards agreements on withdrawal terms (including transition) and the future relationship. In the meantime, however, preparations for “No Deal” have been stepped-up. The UK government has issued 70 Technical Notices to businesses, explaining what will happen in the event of No Deal, and they include advice on what businesses should be doing now to prepare.

While indirect tax issues such as VAT and Customs Duties are a significant aspect of Brexit tax implications, there are also a number of Business Tax implications to consider.

Many companies have complex supply chains that may need to be reconsidered. Some may want to move their contracting entity. Some are considering moving their (regional) head office. Others are having to move part of their operations, including functions, assets and risk, to continue to access the EU market. Some may have to move their R&D centers to keep access to EU Funding. All these issues and more will begin to unpick the overall tax strategy for that company, with new permanent establishments, transfer pricing questions and potential exit charges.

We noticed that regulated businesses such as financial services companies and life sciences companies have already performed Brexit impact analyses and are already implementing or starting to implement new operating models.

Given increased likelihood of “No Deal” scenario, we notice that also non-regulated businesses start looking into Brexit scenario planning. As part of these Brexit restructuring plans we notice that The Netherlands and Germany are often considered as alternative regional head-quarter locations by Japanese MNEs with EMEA regional head-quarter in the UK.

In this respect, we would like to point out that also Belgium

has many assets to host regional head-quarters and/or R&D centers of Japanese MNEs following recent reforms:

- › 100% exemption for dividend income and capital gains on shares;
- › No dividend withholding tax on dividend distributions by Belgian subsidiaries to its Japanese parent company;
- › Dividends can be repatriated free of withholding tax by EU subsidiaries to Belgian resident regional head-quarter/holding company;
- › No capital duty on capital contributions;
- › No stamp duties on the transfer of shares;
- › Abolition of fairness tax as from tax year 2019;
- › New double tax treaty between Belgium and Japan including 0% withholding tax rates on interest and royalties and also including an arbitration clause;
- › Very generous R&D tax incentives (R&D payroll tax exemption reducing salary cost by up to 25% and R&D tax credit amounting to 4%-6% net saving on R&D investments);
- › Innovation Income Deduction resulting in 4.4% effective tax rate on qualifying innovation income (3.75% effective tax rate as from financial years starting on or after 1 January 2020);
- › 29.58% standard corporate tax rate which will be reduced to 25% as from financial years starting on or after 1 January 2020;
- › Special tax regime for foreign expatriates;
- › Central location of Belgium;
- › Proximity of European and international institutions;
- › Availability of highly educated and multilingual workforce;
- › High standard of living; and,
- › Accessibility including daily direct flight between Brussels and Tokyo.

Considering the above, Belgium may be an excellent alternative location for regional head-quarters and/or R&D centers of Japanese MNEs considering moving these functions in the context of Brexit. The attractiveness of Belgium for regional head-quarters of Japanese groups is further supported by the expected reform of Belgian Company Law in 2019.

YES XI Second Briefing Session Japan: Language, Society and Business

Tuesday, 4 September - ULB Brussels



The YES XI Laureates taking their first Japanese lesson with ULB Japanese Language Students under the supervision of Prof. Shizuka Watanabe.



Prof. Dr. Junichiro Inutsuka gave an insightful presentation on “Doing business with Japan: Ambiguity of justice in Euro-Japanese Business activities - Comparing CSR and Sanpōyoshi”.



‘Kanpai’ to a successful YES Program in Japan!

Thanks to the generous support of ULB & EAst, the BJA YES Committee had the pleasure to invite the selected YES laureates to the second YES Briefing Session focused on Japanese language and insights into doing business in Japan.

The event started with a meet & greet together with the assigned Japanese students from Japan and the BLCCJ General Manager, Mrs Sophie Bocklandt. Mrs Bocklandt explained in the course of the afternoon the practical details of the YES Program in Japan, which were very much appreciated by all.

Mrs Ann Blondé, Managing Director of zeal and YES Committee Chair, encouraged the YES laureates to enjoy as much as possible the assistance of the YES students and their respective BLCCJ business coaches. Prof. Shizuka Watanabe of ULB followed with a Japanese language workshop, focused on

Business Japanese, together with the YES Assigned Students and Japanese Studies Students of ULB. The intensive language session proved to be great fun to many.

After the language session, Prof. Dr. Junichiro Inutsuka of Jissen Women’s University made a presentation on: “Doing business with Japan: Ambiguity of justice in Euro-Japanese Business activities - Comparing CSR and Sanpōyoshi. The difference between European and Japanese criteria of the business mind and how to cooperate best in commercial activities”. His presentation brought a lot of insights and wisdom on doing better business in Japan.

After all the hard work preparing for YES, all the participants gathered during a ‘Nomikai’ (afterwork drinks) to toast to the great success ahead in Japan.

The YES Program is under the auspices of His Majesty King Philippe of Belgium. The YES Program is supported by BIE, FIT and AWEX.



news from the members

YAMAGATA EUROPE: 65 LANGUAGES, 400 000 WORDS A DAY WITH JAPANESE PERFECTIONISM**20 YEARS, ESTABLISHED IN 1998****We make everybody understand your message**

We are building bridges between the Japanese and European culture, and between marketing and engineering.

The Yamagata Group story starts in Yokohama in 1906.

The Yamagata Europe story starts in Ghent in 1998 with Geert Benoit and interweaves Japanese perfectionism and Flemish flexibility.

Their core business: translations and technical communication

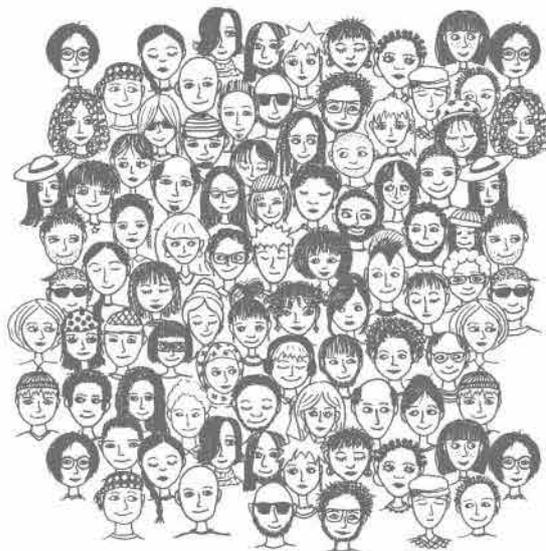
In 1906, Heiji Yamagata founds a printing office in Yokohama. He manages printing of technical manuals for big customers, such as Sony, Honda and the Japanese telecom company NTT. In the 1980s Sony and Honda invest in production outside Japan. Yamagata follows. Ryuji Yamagata, third generation in the family business, decides to broaden the range of services by offering technical writing. In 1991, Yamagata Group arrives at a translation agency in Brussels. The first acquaintance with Geert Benoit is a fact.

“When I started a small translation agency in Brussels, Yamagata Group was my first Japanese customer”, Geert Benoit explains. “Thanks to my studies in Japanology and a few years in Japan, I was perfectly placed to approach Japanese companies. From then on, I worked as a consultant with Japanese companies. The ties with Yamagata remained. In 1998, we agreed to start a European entity for translations and print management.”

In the early years, Geert Benoit especially focuses on print management: the coordination of technical documentation and manuals, according to Japanese standards. He confirms that in this case the cliché is correct: *“The Japanese have an almost obsessive passion for perfection and for quality management to the letter. It was our task to guide our European partners.”* If you can make it in Tokyo, you can make it anywhere.

Printed manuals become less significant. *“We quickly responded to this by dedicating ourselves to translation jobs. We have always been able to differentiate from mainstream translation offices through our technological approach. We developed software to measure the quality of translations objectively. Many competitors and colleagues are now working with that tool. Also, in machine translation we have been a very*

20 years
Yamagata Europe



early adopter. Today we are an important player for instant translations.”

Another strategic choice was to actively expand the customer portfolio. Yamagata Group still accounts for about 25% of sales. The remaining 75% of sales is equally divided between Japanese customers and European companies. *“Japan was our strength, but I deliberately chose to widen the scope. We had proven to deliver high-quality documentation: If you can make it in Tokyo, you can make it anywhere.”*

Yamagata Europe builds bridges between Japanese and European culture, but also between marketing and engineering. Therefore, our mission is: *“We make everybody understand your message.”*

Yamagata Europe succeeds in translating around 400 000 words a day into 65 languages. 55 employees (of whom 10 in Bratislava) realize a turnover of 8 million euros. *“We continue to think in a future-oriented way. We started technical writing two years ago. Our team focuses on multimedia manuals: e-learning and instructional videos.”*

“Our customers export and will always need multilingual technical documentation. In former years it was printed documentation, now it is a multitude of media in more and more languages. As Yamagata Group has supported the Japanese export industry, Yamagata Europe is ready for the Flemish urge for expansion.”

Source: www.yamagata-europe.com

INAUGURATION OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FULLY INTEGRATED POTATO PROCESSING PLANT

On Wednesday 17th October, a new fry production line was inaugurated at the Lutosa SA site in Leuze-en-Hainaut by Christian Brotcorne (mayor of Leuze), Max Koeune (President and CEO of McCain Foods), Erwin Pardon (Managing Director McCain Continental Europe), Alain Duranleau (Managing Director of Lutosa SA) and Guy Van den Broeke (founding

father of the company in 1978). The new 25 to 30 T/h production line currently employs 59 people in 3 shifts. The installation included countless additions to the Leuze site: a new unloading, washing and grading station employing 54 people in 5 shifts, a dry store with 4,400 pallet locations for foil and cardboard boxes, another warehouse for the

storage of 800 ingredient pallets, an extra conveyor tunnel to the cold stores, etc. All this comes on top of the 2017 investments in 2 new speciality lines employing 56 staff in 4 shifts. These lines produce a wide variety of mash based and shredded specialities.

Source: www.lutosa.com/uk/blog-1/events-1/inauguration-1

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENDATION FOR MAYOR OF GHENT TERMONT

On 3 October, a ceremony to award the Foreign Minister Commendation to Mayor of Ghent Mr Daniel Termont was held at the Ghent city hall, in attendance of Ambassador Hayashi and his spouse, Counsellor Mr Hoshino and Ms Kono. Ambassador Hayashi praised the achievements under the leadership of Mayor Termont. Regarding the sister cities relationship between Kanazawa and Ghent, several new cooperation memoranda were concluded. In 2016, during the 150 years of Friendship between Ja-

pan and Belgium and the 45th anniversary of the sister cities relationship, many cultural and people to people exchange events were held in Ghent, resulting in great achievements for the development and deepening of the Japan-Belgium and Kanazawa-Ghent sister city relations. Mayor Termont said he discovered Japanese culture during his time as Deputy Mayor while cooperating with the activities of Japanese companies in Ghent. From the moment he took office as Mayor, he had a goal for further internation-

alization of Ghent, and made efforts for the development of the Kanazawa-Ghent sister cities relationship. Also, he mentioned that during the celebratory year of 2016, many Japan-related events were organized in Ghent, making it a special year which left him with deep memories, and he will continue to work on the development of the relations between Japan and Belgium, and between Ghent and Kanazawa.

Source: www.be.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/news_181003.html

UNDER 35 ARCHITECTS EXHIBITION

Brussels based architecture office SUGIBERRY and Antwerp based Schenk Hattori exhibited their work at Under-35 Architects exhibition held in Osaka from 19-29 October together with 5 Japanese offices. SUGIBERRY turned their temporary café NOSE which was built for Biennale Interieur Kortrijk 2016 into a new exhibit. New exhibit comprised a Takigahara stone bench, which the area is registered as Japan heritage for its culture of stones & Awagami paper which has 1300 years of history. Visitors were invited to rest and sense the material and space. During the exhibition, a symposium was held for young architects to present their projects and to discuss it with panel of eminent Japanese architects such as Toyo Ito, Junya Ishigami, Sou Fujimoto and Akihisa Hirata.

More info: <http://u35.aaf.ac>

若手建築家による建築の展覧会

ブリュッセルを拠点とする設計事務所 SUGIBERRY が 10 月 19 ~ 29 日に大阪で開催された Under 35 Architects exhibition 35 歳以下の若手建築家による建築の展覧会 2018 に出展しました。公募と他薦により選出された 7 組の出展者のうち SUGIBERRY とアントワープを拠点とする Schenk Hattori の 2 組が海外からの出展となり、ベルギーを拠点とする若手建築家の存在を強く印象付けました。SUGIBERRY は Biennale Interieur Kortrijk 2016 のために設計された仮設のカフェ NOSE での体験を大阪にて新たに表現しました。石の文化が日本遺産に指定された石川県小松市の滝ヶ原石を使用したベンチと 1300 年の歴史を持つ阿波和紙を全面に使用した空間は来場者が実際に座ることもでき、大きな反響を呼びました。会期中に行われたシンポジウムでは出展者がそれぞれの作品を発表し、伊東豊雄、石上純也、藤本壮介、平田晃久など日本を代表する建築家とともに活発な議論が交わされました。

展覧会に関するインフォメーション : <http://u35.aaf.ac>



news from the members

**BIG NEW PLAYER IN THE PORT OF ANTWERP:
MOL CHEMICAL TANKERS AND SEA-INVEST TEAM UP TO BUILD TANK STORAGE FARM**

The Japanese group MOL Chemical Tankers is coming to the port of Antwerp. Together with the port group SEA-Invest it is to invest some 300 to 400 million euros in construction of a tank storage terminal for liquid chemicals. This is yet more confirmation of the port's power of attraction for big investors.

Sea-Mol joint venture

Mol Chemical Tankers, a member of the Japanese group Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, will team up with SEA-Invest to build a tank storage terminal in the port of Antwerp. The Sea-Mol joint venture has been set up for this purpose, for which it will invest some 300 to 400 million euros. The new investment is expected to create 100 direct jobs.

New uses for Delwaide dock

The tank terminal will be located on a 45 hectare site in the

Delwaide dock. This is only one part of the concession for which the Port Authority issued a Request for Proposals in 2018. Six candidates were selected as a result, one of them being Sea-Mol. Negotiations were started with the latter with a view to signing a concession agreement. Negotiations with the other five candidates are ongoing with a view to making the best use of the remaining part of the site.

Expanding the chemical cluster

"This investment is further confirmation of our port's ability to attract major investors. It will also boost our position as one of the largest chemical clusters in the world. This is very good news for the port, and for our economy," concluded Jacques Vandermeiren, CEO of Antwerp Port Authority.

Source: www.portofantwerp.com/en/news/big-new-player-port-antwerp

TRADITIONAL TALE 'KOJIKI' OPENS SEASON JAPANESE GARDEN 2019

Traditionally, the Japanese Garden in Hasselt opens its doors every year just before the start of the beautiful cherry blossom season. To celebrate a new season, the City of Hasselt will cooperate with Grete Moortgat from Araumi Daiko vzw, to organize a theatrical concert that tells the traditional Japanese tale of the Kojiki.

The Kojiki is the oldest book that has been passed down in Japanese history and contains myths and legends about the creation of the world by the Shinto-

gods and the creation of Japan. It gives us a vivid image of traditional Japan in the 7th-8th century.

On 30 and 31 March 2019 the theatrical concert of Kojiki will be held in the Japanese Garden. Especially for this occasion, the City of Hasselt has invited special guests to perform in the concert. One of them will of course be Grete Moortgat, as one of the co-organizers. From Japan we are happy to invite Chieko Kojima, one of the founding members of Kodo. She will portray the

supreme goddess Amaterasu.

For the concert-music, Japanese professional drumming troupe Bonten, led by Masataka Kobayashi, and also Belgian professional drumming troupe Feniks Taiko, led by Grete Moortgat, will be present. While respecting the tradition of taiko-drumming, they also incorporate the beats of taiko drums with the Japanese flute and koto.

The City of Hasselt and Araumi Daiko vzw are still looking for sponsors for this



event and offer very satisfying returns for your company. If your company is interested, you can contact Ms Sara Davidson of the Japanese Garden by mail sara.davidson@hasselt.be.



NIPPON SHOKUBAI ANNOUNCES SENIOR ADVISOR MASANORI IKEDA AWARDED COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE CROWN BY KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD. (Headquarter: Osaka, Japan, President: Yujiro Goto, hereinafter “Nippon Shokubai”) announces that Masanori Ikeda, the senior advisor of Nippon Shokubai awarded Commander of the Order of the Crown by the Kingdom of Belgium. The awards ceremony was held at the Belgium Embassy in Tokyo on 27 September, where the senior advisor Ikeda received the honour from Ambassador of Belgium to Japan Gunther Sleeuwagen. Commander of the Order of the Crown is the highest rank honour which can be given for a foreign civilian among the Order of the Crown.

Nippon Shokubai established NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE N.V. (location: Antwerp, Belgium, hereinafter “NSE”) as the

production base in Europe for manufacturing superabsorbent polymers (SAP) which are used for diapers in 1999. To meet the growing global demand for SAP, Nippon Shokubai made additional investment in NSE to expand the production capacity of SAP by 100,000 ton/year (total capacity in NSE became 160,000 ton/year) and to newly construct the 100,000 ton/year capacity plant of acrylic acid which is main raw material for SAP in 2018. In addition, Nippon Shokubai established a joint venture with Umicore S.A. (Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium, hereinafter “Umicore”) in 2012 to develop the automobile catalyst business in global.

The award was given for the contribution to the development of economic rela-

tions between Belgium and Japan by expanding the investment in NSE and developing the joint venture with Umicore.

About Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.

Since 1941, Nippon Shokubai has grown up its business with unique catalyst technology. Nippon Shokubai has supplied, for example, ethylene oxide, acrylic acid, automobile catalysts, process catalysts and so on. Among all, our global market share of superabsorbent polymer is the largest in the world now. Nippon Shokubai is a global chemical company operating under its corporate mission “Providing affluence and comfort to people and society with our unique technology.”

Source: www.shokubai.co.jp/en/news/newso179.html



COMPLETION CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW AA/SAP PLANTS IN NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE N.V.

NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD. (Headquarter: Osaka, Japan, President: Yujiro Goto, hereinafter “Nippon Shokubai”) announces that its subsidiary NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE N.V. (hereinafter “NSE”) held a completion ceremony for the new plants of superabsorbent polymers (“SAP”) and Acrylic Acid (“AA”) in the premise of NSE in Antwerp, Belgium on October 2, 2018.

“We newly constructed a plant of AA which is the main raw material for SAP, although we had produced only SAP at

NSE before. Now we are able to produce AA and SAP consistently here, and this vertical integration is one of our big advantages,” said Yujiro Goto, the president of Nippon Shokubai.

SAP, key material for diapers, is one of the core products of Nippon Shokubai Group. Global demand for SAP grows steadily. Also in Europe, SAP demand is expected to grow stably mainly in Central Europe and Eastern Europe. In order to meet the growth of demand, Nippon Shokubai enhanced its supply capabil-

ity to European market by expanding its production facility of SAP at NSE. In addition, Nippon Shokubai newly established a production facility of AA which is the main raw material for SAP so that it can consistently produce SAP from raw material in Europe. This enabled Nippon Shokubai to further strengthen its global stable supply capability of SAP. Nippon Shokubai will continue to enhance its position as the top supplier of SAP.

Source: www.shokubai.co.jp/en/news/newso180.html

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

Corporate Member

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Brussels Branch



Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) is a core member of SMBC Group, a bank holding company that is ranked among the largest 25 banks globally by assets under management.

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や経済界に対して、更なる価値を提供してまいります。

Neo Building, Rue Montoyer 51 BOX 6 - 2170 Brussels
 Tel: +32 (0)2 404 50 00
 E-mail: kohei_umemoto@be.smbcgroup.com
 Website: www.smbc.co.jp/global
 Contacts: - Mr Constantin Karabalis,
 Senior Executive Director
 - Mr Shohei Shiraishi,
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Luc Vergels, founder and owner, has over 3 decades worth of in-

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- › 募集&人事サービス



International general management expertise in the manufacturing industry. Among other things, he studied, worked and lived in Japan for 4 years and worked 10 years for Japanese companies such as Daikin and Pioneer.

He speaks fluent Japanese on top of 4 other European languages, specifically French, English, Dutch and German.

Luc holds a mechanical engineering degree from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and an MBA degree from IMD, Switzerland. Moreover, he obtained a scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education to conduct research at the University of Kyoto in the field of robotics after learning Japanese at the University of Foreign Language in Osaka.

Luc lives in Brussels and travels regularly to Japan.

ULB ブリュッセル自由大学、機械工学部卒。日本文部科学省国費留学生として大阪外国語大学で日本語、京都大学工学部においてロボット工学研究の後、(株)ダイキン工業にて日本、ベルギーで勤務。スイスのIMD ビジネススクールでMBA取得の後、パイオニア、ABB、Emerson、など、国際企業、多文化ビジネス環境、製造業界での運営組織、総合管理の経験と実績を30年以上続け、現在ビジネスコンサルタントとして活躍している。使用言語、フランス語、英語、オランダ語、日本語、ドイツ語。ベルギー在住。



Treurwilgenlaan 6 - 3090 Overijse
 Tel: +32 (0)474 84 21 41
 E-mail: info@japan-eu-consulting.com
 Website: www.japan-eu-consulting.com
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