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Chamber of Commerce
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TRADE FLOWS & CULTURAL NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Common goals on a global scale

By HE Ambassador Kazuo Kodama, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the European Union



HE Ambassador Kazuo Kodama

On 1 February, earlier this year, the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force, following a signing ceremony at the Japan-EU Summit in Tokyo in July 2018 and a vote at the plenary of the European Parliament in Strasbourg in December 2018. In my capacity as Ambassador of Japan to the European Union, I witnessed these historic moments. The vote in the European Parliament was particularly impressive as 71% of MEPs cast their vote in favour of the EPA, a record for free trade agreements concluded by the EU.

The EPA creates the world's biggest free, open and fair economic space which comprises almost 640 million people, covers about 30% of the world's GDP and nearly 40% of global trade. It will certainly deliver economic benefits for sustainable growth and job creation in both the EU and Japan. The most remarkable aspects of the EPA include the level of tariff elimination (one of the highest in the world) and its addressing of non-tariff measures, which in combination drastically open both markets for Japanese and EU traders; the commitment to further two-way investment, including investments by SMEs; the protection of safe, high-quality agricultural and food products with Geographical Indications. These features allow both Japanese and EU citizens access to high-quality products from both markets, including Belgian chocolates and beers.

This Economic Partnership Agreement is so-called because it goes beyond ordinary free trade agreements. I cannot agree more with President Juncker who articulated this at the moment it came into force, stating that "our agreement shows that trade

is about more than quotas and tariffs, or millions and billions. It is about values, principles and fairness. It makes sure that our principles in areas such as labour, safety, climate and consumer protection are the global gold-standard." Japan and the EU strongly support multilateralism, free trade and, most importantly, a rules-based world order. Moreover, as partners, we also share common values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In today's world where these values are confronted by various challenges, such as unilateralism and protectionism fueled by populism or nationalism, the strategic importance of Japan-EU cooperation has never been greater. Through the EPA, Japan and the EU are sending a powerful message to promote free, fair and rules-based trade and discourage protectionism. Therefore, the EPA demonstrates the firm political will of Japan and the EU to keep the flag of free trade waving high and to powerfully advance free trade.

More locally, economic relations between Japan and Belgium are very encouraging. Towards the end of last year I had the opportunity to attend the 45th anniversary celebrations of the Japanese air conditioning equipment manufacturer Daikin at their European headquarters in Ostend, which has created over 5000 jobs. Similarly, Kaneka, a Japanese chemical producer, has a strong and active presence in Belgium. These examples demonstrate the solid foundations for further developing economic ties between the two countries. I strongly believe and hope that our mutually beneficial EPA will be a catalyst to raise economic cooperation to the next level.

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EU-Japan Trade Agreement Seminar

Thursday, 28 February 2019 - Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB), Brussels



Celebrating the good fortune of EU-Japan relations together.

The Federation of Enterprises in Belgium and the BJA co-organized a seminar on the tangible benefits of the newly signed Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan, with a view to providing companies, both large and small, with practical information on the deal's many opportunities.

After an introduction on the political aspects of the deal given by high-level representatives of the Belgian, Japanese and EU authorities, a vast number of experts (from the European Commission, Belgian authorities and specialist committees) discussed the operational aspects that would allow Belgian

importers and exporters to take full advantage of the numerous benefits of this trade agreement during two interactive workshops, one focusing on goods (and the agri-food sector) and the other on services.

Following the workshops, representatives of the FEB, BJA, Embassy of Japan and European Commission symbolically broke a sake barrel to bring good fortune upon the companies in their business with EU-Japan. The participants then enjoyed the networking cocktails, with a nice sake tasting opportunity offered by Kanpai.



A vast number of experts discuss operational aspects.





INTERNSHIPS BY JAPANESE STUDIES MASTER-DEGREE STUDENTS OF THE KU LEUVEN: A NEW AND POSITIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND COMPANIES

The University of Leuven (KU Leuven) is one of the oldest universities in Europe and is according to Reuters the most innovative university in Europe. Since 1986 the University of Leuven harbours a Japanese Studies section that increasingly attracts students. Many of the graduates go on to work for Japanese companies in Belgium or for European companies doing business with Japan. About half of the credits acquired in the three-year bachelor program and the two-year master program is allocated to language learning. A team of five native and non-native language instructors and three full-time professors make sure that the Japanese Studies graduates acquire a language level equivalent to N2 when obtaining their bachelor degree and N1 after graduating from the master program.

For university education to be effective, a mix of various skills and knowledge is important. A training (education) in Japanese Studies is not tantamount to language education but also entails acquisition of high-level general skills, knowledge and attitudes that are relevant beyond the field of Japanese Studies. It is clear that the main attraction for many students enrolling in this section is the hybridity of the region combining the creativity of popular culture, the robustness of the economy and the technological innovativeness among other aspects. It is therefore that the program of Japanese studies aims to complement language education and a more theoretical approach to skills and knowledge with a stay at a Japanese top-university for one year and with a compulsory internship for at least three full weeks at a Japanese or European (doing business with Japan) company or institution for a more hands-on training in a challenging environment.

Annually, on average, around twenty students proceed to the master program in Japanese Studies. In the previous academic year (2017-2018) which was the first year that internships became compulsory, five students worked as an intern at various companies. This academic year (2018-2019), the number of students increased to 15. These internships are fully supported, monitored and insured by the KU Leuven that also provides an elaborate on-line tool to make sure that the follow-up by the university, the intern and the company is done in a smooth way, including providing a state-of-the-art on-line environment for contracts, feed-back and assessment of the performances of the students. The students are free to organize their internship whenever they feel the internship fits their efforts or whenever they receive the opportunity. The internship can be done in Belgium or in Japan.

Very positive experiences were recorded last year when students worked as interns at places like Oranje Business Services, Kyushu University Archives, Neko Café Fukuoka, Yamagata Intech Tokyo, etc. A Japanese Studies student, intern at “The Evergreen Hostel” in Hiroshima recalls “*I stepped out of my comfort zone and into an exciting three-week period of putting my skills as a*

Japanese Studies student to practice. My education at KU Leuven provided me with strong foundations such as being able to speak upper-intermediate Japanese, but a hostel comes with its own set of challenges. During the first few days, I struggled a bit while getting used to the new situation and the wealth of interactions with diverse guests in quick succession. However, as soon as I gained confidence, I was able to exceed the expectations of both guests and the hostel owner. I was able to provide adequate customer service even to Japanese visitors and made a small group’s stay in Hiroshima unforgettable by being their personal guide and interpreter for one day. This has been a very fruitful and unforgettable experience.”

Students who opted for an internship in Belgium did so at a variety of companies including ANA, Deloitte, Panasonic, Suteki Europe, the Japanese garden in Hasselt, In Flanders Field Museum, etc. One enthusiastic student at Tourism Flanders was happy of this experience because, so she stresses, “*it was the first time that I could apply the skills that I acquired in the class-room in practice and it made me realize what I could do with my degree once I will have graduated. This internship contributed in an important way to my self-confidence and attitude related to a professional life. The insecurities I had about my own capacities disappeared along the road of this internship and I increasingly was able to voice my opinions.”*



The new compulsory internship program yields positive results for students and their host institutions. For companies these internships have been an excellent opportunity to learn to know students with practical Japanese language skills and multi-disciplinary university-level training. Bridging academic education with the professional world is a win-win situation for students and companies alike that we hope to develop further and broaden to more companies and institutions in the future.

For more information on this internship programme please contact: Prof Dr Dimitri Vanoverbeke (Dimitri.Vanoverbeke@kuleuven.be) and Mrs Klara Belmans (Klara.Belmans@kuleuven.be)

A testimony on the new Belgian immigration scheme

By Mrs Yuri Kiyoshima, Senior immigration consultant, Deloitte and BJA Editorial Committee member

While working for Japanese clients in the field of immigration and social law for almost 10 years, I've always been close to the changes in practices in Belgium and also followed up on the harmonization measures the EU wanted to introduce, such as the Blue card and ICT permit.

During those years, I also saw the immigration schemes becoming more complex (due to interaction between immigration, tax and social law) and faster in many EU countries (due to the introduction of on-line applications).

I was thus very excited about the prospect of a new immigration scheme in Belgium. Whereas the promised simplification and shortening of the process are not yet reality, I wanted to share some first experiences with the new immigration scheme, some 3 months after its first introduction. A few things are making the system more practical and attractive. First of all, there is no longer a need to provide original documents; we see that this saves at least a week in the overall process, as the original documents needed in the old process no longer need to be shipped by mail. Moreover, in terms of timing, we no

longer need to pick up the work permits and send them to Japan. In the past, this process took quite some time and effort, and easily added one week to the overall processing time. Lastly, and this is only in the Flemish region, there is now the possibility to obtain work permits for people under 30 years old without them having to comply with the usual salary threshold, or to have single permits with a validity for up to 3 years.

This last advantage also highlights one of the pain points of the new single permit immigration scheme. Since its introduction, the different regions, and especially the Flemish region, started implementing their own specific rules. Especially for Japanese companies with activities in different regions, this is very hard to understand. Indeed, how can different immigration rules exist in such a small country!

Another pain point is the increase of the overall processing time. Each application for a single permit entails that the file is handled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a step which previously did not exist. Whereas in the past, the Belgian

consular authorities in Tokyo were able to grant visa almost automatically, within maximum 1 week, the overall processing times after the receipt of approval from the Ministry of Employment is extended by about 5 to 6 weeks. This time is currently needed for the Ministry of Internal Affairs to decide upon the ability for the Japanese employees and his/her family members to enter in Belgium, before they grant the Belgian consular authorities in Tokyo a "green light" to put a visa stamp in the passport. It is this increase in timing, and the lack of transparency around the status of the application files, which is hard to understand in these modern times.

In the meantime, we have seen that processing times have already gone down a bit, and we have the promise they will further decrease over the next months, while the authorities get used to the new system. You have our commitment that together with the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce, we are working hard to try to shorten and simplify this process for the benefit of all our Japanese investors in Belgium.

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Friendship Café / フレンドシップ・カフェ

Sunday, 31 March 2019 - Brussels

We gathered at Le Pantin, a typical bar near Place Flagey in Brussels for the traditional "friendship café". We were about 8 participants - half were Japanese, the other half Belgian. Some of us were students, other were already working so it was a nicely mixed group! Everyone enjoyed a Belgian beer and we had a friendly chat about the end of the era in Japan, the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in the summer of 2020, life in Belgium and other random topics. The event ended around 7 pm, with many of us willing to participate in the future activities of the BJA Friendship committee, as it truly was a very warm and friendly gathering!

By a BJA Friendship café participant



EPA HELPDESK TO SUPPORT EU SMES

To raise awareness of the opportunities this agreement offers and to help EU SMEs take advantage of them, the EU-Japan Centre has launched an EPA Helpdesk to support and guide EU SMEs in their search for relevant information.

The “EPA Helpdesk” answers EPA-related queries, organises webinars and publishes information packs each of them composed of a factsheet and/or practical guide covering a specific topic or sector.

Below listed are the services provided by the helpdesk:

INFODESK

The EU-Japan Centre answers EPA related queries. When the answer will not be available in-house, the EU-Japan Centre will signpost to relevant existing online information.

PUBLICATIONS

The EU-Japan Centre releases on a regular basis sectoral information packs composed of a factsheet presenting factual information about the changes brought by the EPA and a practical guide helping SMEs to take advantage of this agreement. The packs are prepared under the supervision of the European Commission and will match the relevant sectors.

WEBINAR SERIES

The EU-Japan Centre organises webinars covering specific EU-Japan EPA-related topics. Each standalone webinar will last an hour. Participants will learn about the changes brought by the EPA and the new opportunities that are being created. After a 45-minute presentation, participants will be able to put their questions to the expert during a Q&A session.

WEBINARS CALENDAR (2019 - 2020)

Meat Products	Tuesday, 11 June 2019 at 10:30 CET
Processed agricultural products (PAPs)	Tuesday, 18 June 2019 at 10:30 CET

And many more !

Register for updates on: www.eu-japan.eu/eu-japan-epa-helpdesk-information

USEFUL LINKS:

- › **About the agreement:**
<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>
- › **Market access database:**
<http://madb.europa.eu/madb/indexPubli.htm>
http://madb.europa.eu/madb/fta_japan_overview.htm
- › **Taxation and customs:**
https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/international-affairs/international-customs-cooperation-mutual-administrative-assistance-agreements/japan_en
- › **EU-Japan Trade:**
<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/japan/>
- › **EU-Japan Cooperation:**
https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/international-aspects/cooperation-governments/eu-japan_en
- › **Delegation of the European Union to Japan:**
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/japan/56981/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement-epa_en
- › **Agri-Food trade statistics:**
https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/countries/agrifood-japan_en.pdf

Source: <https://www.eu-japan.eu/epa-helpdesk>

EU-Japan news

THE FIRST JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE JAPAN-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA)

The first Joint Committee under the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement was held on the 25 March 2019 in Tokyo. This launched the implementation of the new agreement, which enshrines common values and principles, such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. It provides a legal framework for intensified cooperation in a wide range of fields of foreign and security policy as well as other areas of sectoral cooperation.

Japan and the EU discussed priorities for cooperation under the Strategic Partnership Agreement in this initial phase such as;

- › sustainable connectivity and quality infrastructure
- › global issues

The parties also decided to intensify their cooperation on challenges related to the digital economy such as privacy and security of data. There was consensus between Japan and the EU to strengthen security policy cooperation in accordance with the Strategic Partnership Agreement.

The Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee were also adopted. The Joint Committee meeting was chaired by Mr Yasushi Masaki, Director-General of the European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service.

Source: https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002392.html

In my final thought, I would like to reference Japanese Prime Minister Abe. Speaking at the World Economic Forum at Davos on 23 January, ahead of Japan's presidency of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Abe cited the Japan-EU EPA and the importance of ever closer cooperation between Japan and the EU. This illustrates the importance of the EPA, in combination with the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), in giving us a robust legal basis to elevate our relationship to achieve common goals on a global scale.

*By HE Ambassador Kazuo Kodama,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of Japan to the European Union*

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2019 will be a significant year in the joint history of the EU and Japan with the **EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** entering into force.

リンクレーターズは**世界的な大手国際法律事務所**であり、その歴史は1837年まで遡ります。企業や金融機関、各国政府のアドバイザーとして、複雑なプロジェクトから紛争処理まで、多岐にわたる案件を手掛けてまいりました。**ブリュッセルと東京**を含む世界の主要都市にオフィスを擁していることから、**世界中あらゆる地域でお客様のお手伝い**をすることができます。リンクレーターズでは所員一同、卓越したクオリティを目指して研鑽を重ね、チームワークを重んじ、想像力と創造力を大切にしております。数々の案件を通じて培ってきた判断力や法分野におけるリーダーシップを活かし、お客様がビジネスで成功するためのサポートをしております。

2019年は**日EU経済連携協定 (EPA)** が施行されることから、EUと日本にとって大きな意味のある年となりそうです。

Contact: Tanguy Van Overstraeten, tanguy.van_overstraeten@linklaters.com, +32 2 501 9405

BJA Seminar / BJAセミナー Brexit - Are We Ready?

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 - Linklaters LLP, Brussels



Opportunities and challenges – the participants find good cooperation in all.



(from left): Masatomo Nomura, Founder Nomura Consulting Europe & BJA Investment Committee Chair, Lucy Fergusson, Partner Linklaters LLP, Roel Verhelst, Manager Employment Consulting EY, Xavier Taton, Partner Linklaters LLP and Daan De Vlieger, Director Customs & Global Trade Deloitte



Topics such as the Brexit process, HR aspects, and Contracts & liability aspects were touched upon during the two hour seminar.

In March 2019, as the original deadline for Brexit was fast approaching, the level of political uncertainty as well as the potential impact for any company doing business in Europe and in the UK was very high. The Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce, in co-operation with Linklaters LLP, were therefore delighted to invite all to a seminar to look together at some of the key issues Japanese and EU businesses need to consider when preparing for Brexit in the context of the latest developments and the various withdrawal scenarios that are unfolding.

After a most elaborate and delicious walking lunch, experts

Lucy Fergusson, Partner at Linklaters LLP, Roel Verhelst, Manager Employment Consulting at EY, Xavier Taton, Partner at Linklaters LLP and Daan De Vlieger, Director Customs & Global Trade at Deloitte, discussed topics such as the Brexit process, HR aspects, and Contracts & liability aspects during a two hour seminar.

Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner at Linklaters LLP and BJA Vice-President introduced the session and Masatomo Nomura, Founder of Nomura Consulting Europe & BJA Investment Committee Chair, wrapped up the discussions, which continued during the closing drinks.





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BJA Annual General Assembly BJA定例総会

Tuesday, 19 March 2019 – KPMG|K Law, Zaventem



Koen Maerevoet, CEO KPMG Belgium, Wouter Lauwers, Managing Partner K Law and BJA President Gilbert Declerck welcome the BJA members.



Dr Lacombe of EORTC addresses the audience.



The networking cocktail after the AGM was highly appreciated.

Thanks to the generous support of KPMG|K Law, the BJA invited the members to their beautiful offices for the General Assembly. After some welcome words by Koen Maerevoet, CEO at KPMG Belgium, and Prof Gilbert Declerck, Board member of imec International and BJA President, Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner at Linklaters LLP and BJA Vice-President, reported on the financial results of 2018, followed by Anja Oto-Kellens, BJA Executive Director, who presented the 2019 budget. Philippe Borremans, Business Development Advisor at Group S and Acting BJA Membership Committee Chairman presented the membership situation of 2018.

Tanguy Van Overstraeten continued to report on the activities

of the Executive Committee, representing all business committees, followed by Dr Takeshi Morisato, BJA Cultural Committee member, who gave a review of all the activities organized by the Cultural and Friendship Committees in 2018.

The statutory nominations were voted afterwards, allowing Prof Gilbert Declerck to close the meeting and give the floor to Dr Denis Lacombe, EORTC Director General, and Dr Mitsumi Terada, EORTC Medical research fellow, for a presentation on the partnership of EORTC and its Japanese counterpart. After these insightful speeches, Prof Declerck invited all the participants for a networking cocktail, kindly offered by KPMG|K Law.



Fukushima 8 years later

By Mr Marc Popelier, Owner of Japanadvice.be

Exactly one week before the eighth anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, I had the opportunity of being guided in and around the exclusion zone near the Daiichi power plant by Shuzo Sasaki, a senior officer from the Fukushima Prefectural Government. Sasaki san - and with him the Fukushima prefectural government - wants the world to know that 8 years after the nuclear disaster, there is hope for this region that was so badly hit.

On March 26th next year, the Tokyo 2020 Torch Relay will start from Fukushima prefecture. A clear statement by the organizing committee and the Japanese government that spares no costs or efforts to show that life is returning to normal in Fukushima prefecture.

But is it so? As always with difficult questions the answer is not straightforward. No doubt huge progress has been made and probably the answer is: yes, things are back to normal for a large part of this vast prefecture.



Yet various problems remain, and not in the least the mindset of people inside and outside Japan (to name only China, Taiwan and South Korea) that rightly or wrongly continue to associate Fukushima and some neighboring prefectures with unsafe food and an unsafe environment.

A step back in time and what happened with the population

In the afternoon of 11 March 2011 a magnitude 9.0-9.1 earthquake occurred just in front of the coast of Tohoku, the fourth most powerful in recorded history. This in turn triggered a massive Tsunami killing more than ten thousand people. The 15-meter-high tsunami waves were the root cause for the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The waves topped the dyke in front of the

plant and flooded the basement of the nuclear reactors. Because of this the pumps stopped cooling the reactors, causing a meltdown and explosions in some of the reactor buildings in the days thereafter. Subsequently highly radioactive material was released both in the air and in the sea and ten thousands of people were forced to leave their homes.

Gradually the radiation dropped, and the government has been steadily lifting the evacuation order. Now basically only the towns of Futaba, Namie and Okuma are closed off still.

Are people coming back?

To be fair, in the areas close to Daiichi plant, which are declared safe, relatively few people are returning to their homes. According to the government roughly 25% have returned to areas now declared safe to return. As of January 2019 around 50,000 evacuees remained in temporary housing.

One of the people that spent almost eight years as an evacuee and now returned is Seimai Sasaki. At 93, he is the oldest person to return to Odaka, a town just north of the exclusion zone. Seimai's spouse already passed away and he is now living alone in his house relatively far from the town center. In this remote neighborhood of Odaka only 10% of the population came back and they have an average age of 70.

I asked him why he is returning. Listening carefully to Seimai's story one factor is that his family's roots go back to this area over hundreds of years and one of his children is living relatively nearby. Other factors are that he is feeling healthy, receives daycare help and most important still drives his car. He may have noticed the surprise in my eyes and joked by saying that only few people are on the road anyhow. It is clear that he wants to enjoy the last part of his life in the place where he lived for more than eighty years despite the practical issues he is facing.

I also asked our guide Shuzo Sasaki, the son of Seimei, why more young families are not coming back. He explained that various reasons are cited in studies such as fears for radiation, lack of facilities and social infrastructure.

In my humble opinion one factor I did not hear as an outsider is that eight years in the life of a young family is eternity. Also in Japan it takes time to embed yourself in a new social environment. By now the young families that were evacuated will have done so.





Children that were in kindergarden are by now going to secondary school. Children that were twelve are at university or graduated from high school. Ask yourself the question: would you go back? Probably the solution will come from new people moving into the region that venture in new businesses and services. One of them is Karin Taira who runs a B&B named The Lantern House in Odaka and acts also as a tour guide working for Shuzo. With good promotion techniques people like her attract tourists curious to learn about the recovery efforts in the region. She also introduces them to local businesses such as her neighbor who runs a bicycle rental shop or the nearby sushi restaurant and convenience store. Almost daily visitors are coming. Small signs of recovery in Odaka where now about one third of its population has returned.

Attracting the right tourists and improving the perception of the food produced in the region

Last year almost 100,000 tourists visited Fukushima prefecture. This is a huge rise and for some areas much more than before the disaster struck. Yet it is not easy to attract the right kind of tourist. Netflix broadcasted end of last year an episode of their popular series “Dark Tourist”. New Zealand journalist David Ferrier went on tour with tourists thereby portraying high-radiation in the areas near the Daiichi power plant and hinting at contaminated seafood served in a restaurant. The local government and the Reconstruction Agency were not amused to say the least.

All of this is not helping to improve the perception that the fruit, vegetables and seafood of Fukushima are safe for consumption. For a layman it is extremely difficult to judge amongst all the reports produced which ones are absolutely reliable. Yet it appears that the consensus is that the ongoing food samples taken show no danger whatsoever for human consumption.

The least one can say is that the Japanese government is doing huge efforts to ensure that (sea) food from Fukushima prefecture meets the highest safety standards. Yet some of the neighboring countries of Japan have not yet lifted the ban on some for all food imports concerned.

Green energy, farming and public construction

What is striking when driving through the area is the massive amount of reconstruction works taking place on a scale rarely seen in a developed Western country. These works include reinforce-

ment of dykes both at the coast and inland, public buildings and soon the reopening of the last section of the all-important Joban railway. Large parts have already re-opened along the Fukushima coast but the North and South were disconnected in the exclusion zone near the Daiichi plant. All of that will change soon.

That these recovery efforts are received well is confirmed by an article in the Asahi Shimbun of 28 February 2019 documenting that for the first time more than half (52%) of the Fukushima population believes there is progress made towards the recovery. In sharp contrast with less than 20% in 2014.

Not surprisingly in that same study it was revealed that a large majority of the Fukushima population (68%) is opposed to resuming nuclear reactor operations. Smartly, with help of the local government, a lot of solar panels are now being installed in places where the soil is so contaminated that farming will be impossible in the coming decades.

Other types of agriculture are also being envisioned. New greenhouses are being constructed where non-contaminated soil can be easily used. I have also seen young farmers experimenting with olive trees whereas others have ventured into flowers. Time will tell how successful they can be.

What is the status of the decommissioning of the Daiichi plant?

Slowly but surely progress is being made. However, Sasaki san warned against being overly optimistic and explained that they are talking in decades not years before the situation will be resolved. In the meantime, the four nuclear units are kept stable with continuous water injection. In addition, various measures have been taken to ensure the four crippled reactors can withstand another earthquake or tsunami. This includes an extra sea wall, closing off all openings in the buildings and placing mobile generators on the nearby hills.

Ongoing reports made public explain clearly that many issues remain to be solved. Two are imminent. Contaminated water from cooling the reactors is purified as much as possible and stored in tanks in front of the plant. Contaminated soil removed from the surrounding area is stored in bags in secluded compounds. For both a final solution still needs to be found.

Those interested in following in detail the situation should take a look at the website of the government: www.meti.go.jp/english/earthquake/nuclear/decommissioning/index.html



“Fukushima Prefecture, devastated by the worst nuclear disaster ever, is focusing its recovery on renewable energy. Solar energy farms, biogas installations and off-shore wind mills are shaping the future. Since 2012, Fukushima is showing its skills at the yearly Renewable Energy Industry Fair (REIF). Since 2013, Flanders is participating every year to this fair in Fukushima Prefecture, connecting technology and innovation in both regions. Fleeing has bent into returning and cooperating for the full recovery of Fukushima.”

Dirk De Ruyver - Japan Representative FIT



BJA REPORT

#Yes2Belgium Election Debate

10 political parties - 12 international chambers

Wednesday, 3 April 2019 – ING Brussels



BJA members attending the event.



The 10 representatives from the political parties actively debating.



The organizing teams from the Chambers of Commerce joined the politicians for a group picture after the insightful debate.

12 foreign Chambers of Commerce co-organized the first-ever #Yes2Belgium Election Debate beginning of April. More than 200 representatives of the international business community in Belgium gathered at ING Marnix to hear first-hand what 10 political parties propose to further strengthen Belgium's position as a place to invest and do business.

It started with introductory remarks by Erik Van Den Eynden, CEO of ING Belgium, and Marcel Claes, Chief Executive of AmCham Belgium, who set the scene. Then, the following 10 panelists took the stage to exchange their viewpoints on how to make Belgium more competitive after the upcoming May 26 elections: Wouter Beke (CD&V), Alexia Bertrand (MR), Franc Bogovic (Open VLD), Jan Cornillie (sp.a), Antoine de Borman

(cdH), Cécile Jodogne (DéFI), Marc Tarabella (PS), Wouter Van Besien (Groen), Johan Van Overtveldt (N-VA) and Gilles Vanden Burre (Ecolo).

For about two hours, the panelists discussed the following four topics which reflect the concerns of the international business community: mobility, labor market, corporate taxation and country governance.

After this very successful debate, Wim Eynatten, Partner at Deloitte and BJA Legal & Tax Committee Chair wrapped up the event. The participants then continued discussing during the networking reception the political proposals they had just heard.



Security Seminar

第7回企業・在留邦人向け安全対策セミナー

2019年、4月19日(金)、ブラッセル日本人学校



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7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(特に最近当地に來られた方々)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50名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。当日は、在ベルギー日本国大使館の高瀬副領事並びにオードルゲム/ウックル/ワテマル・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。

On 19 April 2019, 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 the 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 50 participants of the Brussels Japanese School, members of the Japanese Association in Belgium and the BJA.





Belgian
Foreign Trade Agency



BELGIUM & JAPAN

2018

Japan = 21 st client	EUR 3.2 billion: -0.9%
Japan = 10 th supplier	EUR 9.3 billion: +5.6%
Trade balance : EUR -6.1 billion	

Major sections

Export	Share	Import	Share
Chemicals	40.8%	Transport equipment	51.9%
Transport equipment	14.9%	Machinery & equipment	24.7%
Machinery & equipment	9.0%	Chemicals	9.5%

2017

Japan = 20 th client	EUR 3.2 billion: -9.1%
Japan = 10 th supplier	EUR 8.8 billion: +4.8%
Trade balance : EUR -5.6 billion	

Major sections

Export	Share	Import	Share
Chemicals	39.0%	Transport equipment	50.6%
Transport equipment	13.7%	Machinery & equipment	24.7%
Optical instruments	12.4%	Chemicals	10.1%

CLIENT → BELGIAN EXPORTS / SUPPLIER → BELGIAN IMPORTS

Importance of Japan and neighbouring countries in Belgium's foreign trade (2018)

Japan
21th client
EUR 3.2 billion
10th supplier
EUR 9.3 billion

China
9th client
EUR 7.0 billion
6th supplier
EUR 15.1 billion

South Korea
35th client
EUR 1.7 billion
23rd supplier
EUR 2.4 billion

Russia
15th client
EUR 3.7 billion
9th supplier
EUR 9.9 billion

2014-2018

In billion EUR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Exports	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.2
Imports	7.3	7.7	8.4	8.8	9.3
Trade balance	-4.2	-4.4	-4.8	-5.6	-6.1
Exports: variation %	-11.7	7.9	7.5	-9.1	-0.9
Imports: variation %	2.7	4.9	9.1	4.8	5.6

JUST SMILE

Just Smile is a Belgo-Japanese start-up aiming at reducing plastic consumption created by two university students: Kazuna Yamamoto (Japanese) and Helena Andre (Belgian). This start-up focuses on providing eco-friendly alternatives to plastic items. Its goal is to provide an easy, fun and stylish way to adopt a sustainable and greener lifestyle.

“We want to move away from the idea that adopting a sustainable lifestyle is difficult, expensive and boring” - Founders.

Currently, Just Smile is offering bamboo toothbrushes and travel cases.



The Just Smile team wishes to expand to new products to launch the perfect sustainable kit for hotels, restaurants, airplanes and personal users.

The Just Smile story started in Japan when Kazuna and Helena met during their business class. Both of them had the opportunity to travel and were shocked to realise the damages caused by the plastic (over) consumption. They wanted to adopt a greener lifestyle but could not find many alternatives to plastic products. They thought if we can find eco-friendly alternatives let's invent them.

Since the start, both enjoyed the idea of having a multicultural team as they believe that every country faces different problems and holds different ways to solve them. Having an international team allows more flexibility, creativity and adaptability to the need of a specific country. As an example, we made the head of the brushes smaller for the Japanese market. The team is currently composed of three main managers; the two founders and the CFO, Niklas Jehle (Danish/ German) plus a Japanese Photographer (Mayu Ono) and a Belgian Sales Representative (Victor Andre). Due to this international composition, challenges emerge every day.

“It is challenging to manage and take fast group decisions when the team members are located all around the world and on different time zone” - Helena - Co-founder.

Moreover, Just Smile desires to reduce plastic consumption and be an eco-friendly brand is a challenge at every step in the value chain because every party must find sustainable alternatives.



Challenges also come with opportunities such as acting globally for a common benefit. Every single day, Just Smile is working on deals to hold a bigger impact all across the globe. For the team, it is an incredible experience to launch a start-up focusing on sustainability. The two founders as university students realised the importance of education and decided to stand up for this cause. Thus, besides cleaning the environment Just Smile also focuses on fighting education inequality. Therefore, they have partnered up with Educate For, an NGO which aims at fighting educational inequality. For every toothbrush bought, a pencil is given to children in South America. To ensure that the goal is being pursued, the Just Smile team choose this particular NGO since its founder is Kazuna (one of Just Smile co-founders).

“We did not want to give away money and not being able to ensure our purpose was being respected” - The Just Smile Co-founders.

Clean the earth and give back to society by adopting Just Smile products.

Life's simple, go green and Just Smile!



For more information check out:

- › Instagram: @justsmileglobal
@justsmilejapan
- › Facebook: @justsmileglobal
- › Linked In: @justsmileglobal
- › Website: www.just-smile.co
- › Contact: justsmileglobal@gmail.com

news from the members

EVENTS IN THE JAPANESE GARDEN OF HASSELT: JOIN US!

Summer is one of the most beautiful times to discover nature. And what better place to do so than at the Japanese Garden in Hasselt? The Garden was given to Hasselt as a gift from her Japanese sister city Itami, in 1992, and has been a center of Japanese culture ever since. This year we would like to once again invite everyone with strong ties to Japan to come and visit the Garden, and celebrate with us all the wonderful things Japanese culture has to offer.

This summer will host many special events dedicated to Japanese culture. Such as the Tanabata festival on 7 July, where we celebrate the Japanese Star Festival. Visitors can join in the

Japanese tradition of writing down their wishes on small pieces of paper and hanging those from the bamboo trees. Throughout the day we will celebrate summer with musical performances and workshops.

We also celebrate the Obon festival on 14 August, one of Japan's oldest traditional festivals, which is celebrated with a special evening opening. During the Obon festivities, we would like to invite you to join us for our Obon dance, and to join us in decorating the garden with hundreds of beautiful lights.

Other than this, the summer at the Japanese Garden is filled with opportunities to take part in the many cultural

activities organized around this time. During this time we have workshops in the art of Japanese calligraphy known as Shod, as well as the beautiful art of Japanese flower arrangement, known as Ikebana. Those who have a particular liking for Japanese tea are welcome to join for the tea ceremony demonstration.

In 2019 the garden will be open until 3 November. We are happy to host groups, and can accommodate for specific audiences who want to book one of the workshops for a private event. For all information on the garden, workshops and special events please visit www.japansetuin.be.



NIPPON EXPORT AWARD 2019-2020

The Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BLCCJ) is organizing the anniversary 10th edition of the Nippon Export Award. Is your SME or large company exporting to Japan, importing into Japan, or offering Belgian-Luxembourg products/services in Japan? Then you could be our next winner!

For more information on the application conditions, the selection criteria and the schedule, please check out the BLCCJ website:

<http://blccj.or.jp/nippon-export-award>

日本輸出大賞 2019-2020

在日ベルギー・ルクセンブルグ商工会議所（BLCCJ）では第10回目を記念する、日本輸出大賞を主催します。貴方の会社はベルギー、ルクセンブルグ製品・サービスの日本への輸出、または日本国内に輸入・流通サービスに携わっていますか？もしそうであるなら、貴方が次の大賞受賞者になるかもしれません！

日本輸出大賞応募に関する条件、選択基準や日程等、詳細は BLCCJ のウェブサイトをご覧ください。

<http://blccj.or.jp/nippon-export-award>



news from the members

INAUGURATION OF ANECHOIC CHAMBERS OF AGC GLASS EUROPE IN GOSSELIES

Two anechoic chambers were inaugurated on 15 March by the Minister-President of Wallonia, Willy Borsus, at the AGC Technovation Centre (R&D Centre) at Gosselies (Charleroi, Belgium) in a ceremony attended by numerous personalities from the worlds of politics and industry together with representatives of the press. The new facility will be used for developing and testing AGC technology for windows with built-in antenna, in response to the growing demand for connectivity.



The walls of the chambers are covered by material that absorbs electromagnetic radiation and prevents it from bouncing back off the walls (hence “anechoic”). The large chambers hold all the necessary equipment used to measure the transmission and reception of electromagnetic waves, for communication between vehicles, between vehicles and their surroundings, and through the windows of buildings. This will become increasingly necessary in the future with the advent of 5G and self-driving vehicles.

The investment of around 10 million euros, with support from the Walloon government, will also serve as a technology platform for various players involved in the challenge of connectivity in Wallonia, including the public authorities together with various industries such as transport, construction, telecommunication etc. The new facility will create around 20 jobs.

Source: <http://www.agc-automotive.com/en/news-and-events/Inauguration-of-anechoic-chambers-of-AGC-Glass-Europe-in-Gosselies/>

TANUKI RESTAURANT

30 years of Japanese gastronomy in Bruges!

After graduating from culinary school, Ivan Verhelle moved to Japan, driven by his fascination for its gastronomy. He learned the traditional (Washoku) and modern (teppanyaki) cuisine, at a time when soy sauce was only being introduced in European kitchen. His wife Linda acquired Japanese and went to the school to learn the wearing of the kimono, the traditional Japanese garment, the art of flower arrangement or ikebana and tea ceremony or way of tea.

In 1989 Ivan and Linda opened a small Japanese restaurant in the heart of Bruges. For the last 30 years, they have offered original Japanese cuisine within an authentic atmosphere to their guests, providing an exciting and holistic culinary experience to their guests. Over the years, the high quality of their menu soon opened the doors to new opportunities: their recipes were shared with and adopted by Daikin, Toyota, and Mutoh; they participated in television cooking shows on Vitaya and VTM, provided meals for 1st class passengers on Sabena flights to Tokyo, or offered a selection of their menu at Delhaize supermarkets.



Ivan and Linda are grateful to all members of their fantastic team, their friends in Japan, their family, as well as their guests that made their dream of sharing Japanese cuisine and culture in Bruges, not only a reality but a success.

A few words from Chef Ivan Verhelle

A successful Japanese restaurant in Bruges for so many years is possible only if you have a feeling for eastern philosophy, if you speak the language, if you breathe Japanese as it were, and if you can rely on a good team.

Immediately after graduating from hotel and catering

news from the members

school, my wife Linda and I went to Japan to study the cuisine and gastronomic culture. I was already fascinated by Japanese gastronomy, partially because of the growing popularity of the cuisine nouvelle that found its inspiration in eastern cuisine with new raw materials, techniques and presentation at the table.

In Tokyo we were able to go to work immediately with Chef Tanzawa Taminori in the former kaiseki restaurant, Haku-unkaku. We immersed ourselves in the Japanese social environment because in learning the cuisine of Japan, knowledge of the language, culture and mentality is just as important as professional knowledge.

After a few years, we returned to Flanders to establish a small restaurant on the Minnewater in Bruges, that soon became too small. In 1995 we moved to our present location on the Oude Gentweg. Chef Tanzawa Taminori still selects and sends the right people to come and work for us.



Our customers have enjoyed eating here for twenty years largely - if not entirely – because of the quality and the authenticity of our cuisine. Our menu contains traditional Japanese dishes, but we also like to surprise our guests with less known dishes. This clearly appeals to ‘westerners’ but also to Japanese tourists who are homesick for their own cuisine.

Would you like to enjoy Japanese dishes at home? Then you can always order one of our takeaway menus. Or why not try it yourself? Armed with these handy recipes and an overview of the basic ingredients and terminology of Japanese cooking you are sure to be successful.

All the ingredients for Japanese food can be found in a supermarket, an eastern speciality shop or in the shopping nook of our restaurant. Make a selection from our assortment of various Japanese specialities, Japanese porcelain and small kitchen utensils.

Have fun cooking!

Ivan Verhelle and the Tanuki team



Tanuki
japanese restaurant

TANUKI



Restaurant Tanuki

Oude Gentweg 1 - 8000 Brugge

Tel: 050 34 75 12

E-mail: info@tanuki.be

Website: www.tanuki.be



news from the members

DAIKIN WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT TROPHY FOR BRINGING A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO FLANDERS SINCE 1973

One of the first Japanese companies ever to invest in Flanders, air conditioning specialist Daikin has been firmly anchored in the region since 1973. During the past 45+ years, the Japanese firm has expanded its activities in Flanders to include hubs in the cities of Ghent and Brussels. In addition, Daikin set up an R&D department in Ostend that functions as the entire group's knowledge center on heating devices. The Japanese multinational even turned its Ostend offices into the group's EMEA headquarters. Highlighting these efforts, Daikin will receive the Lifetime Achievement Trophy during Flanders Investment & Trade's annual Foreign Investment Trophy event on 18 March 2019.

What made it all possible? Innovation. Frans Hoorelbeke, chairman at Daikin Europe: *"For Daikin, innovation equals growth. It's by coming up with new products, methods and technologies that we find promising ways to tackle environmental and energy challenges, while simultaneously responding to market trends."* *"We owe the Lifetime Achievement Trophy to our amazing people, so I want to thank them for all their efforts. I'm thrilled to be taking this trophy home to the Daikin family!"* - Frans Hoorelbeke, chairman at Daikin Europe.

The icing on the cake

It's not the first time that Daikin's investment efforts in Flanders have been a breath of fresh air. Two years ago, a substantial EUR 25.5 million investment – part of which went to adding two ultra-modern testing rooms at its R&D center – earned the company a nomination for FIT's 2017 Foreign Investment of the Year Trophy. In the same year, Daikin Europe also won a Factory of the Future Award, issued by local technology federation Agoria.

"These awards mean a lot to us," Frans explains. *"For our Japanese headquarters, they symbolize Flanders' acknowledgement of Daikin's dedication as the largest employer in Ostend. It's a sign of respect that is greatly appreciated."*

The perfect climate for success

Initially, Daikin started its European operations in Malta. However, once business started taking off, the company decided to move its local headquarters and set up a production facility elsewhere. After considering regions with high-potential investing conditions, Daikin decided to put down roots in Ostend, Flanders in 1973.

"The decision was influenced by several key benefits," Frans explains. *"Flanders and Ostend are just a hop away from the UK, one of the largest European markets, while still being on the European mainland. The region's infrastructure also makes it well-connected. Add to that a workforce that is not only loyal and hardworking, but diplomatic and highly educated as well, and it's easy to see why Flanders ended up being the ideal home for our EMEA headquarters."*

Adding real value

Daikin has been a star in the firmament of Flanders' corporate landscape for over 45 years. During this time, the ambitious company focused on setting up and expanding the group's global R&D center and a production facility that co-generates 80% of Daikin's sales in Europe. *"Producing locally in Flanders is a crucial competitive advantage for Daikin, as it allows us to respond quickly and flexibly to market needs,"* Frans explains. *"Our Japanese headquarters in Osaka sees our Flanders-based site as one of the group's most important production footholds, as it excels in manufacturing products with high added value."*

The growth saga continues

Over the past decades, Daikin Europe saw its turnover skyrocket from EUR 5 million to EUR 2.8 billion, EUR 85 million of which in Flanders. Its employee count grew from 68 to nearly 2,040 strong in Flanders, of which 1,700 are employed at the Ostend headquarters. Furthermore, Daikin Europe opened offices in Ghent and Brussels, in addition to 20 factories all over the European continent. The company even set up its very own Daikin Europe Academy in Ostend, an internal training center that enables employees and business partners to hone their skills.

What's more, Daikin's growth in Flanders shows no signs of losing steam. On the contrary: the company has a five-year plan in the works that showcases its ambition. By 2020, Daikin's EMEA headquarters aims to achieve a turnover of more than EUR 4 billion. *"It's not an idle dream, if we keep believing and working hard,"* Frans asserts. *"We recently finalized a very important strategic acquisition in the refrigeration sector and we achieved an average growth rate of 8% over the last 5 years – acquisitions not included. It's safe to say we're on the right track."*

Delve into the history of Daikin in Flanders

- > 1973: Daikin first sets up activities in Ostend, Flanders.
- > 1991-93: the Ostend site is expanded from 5,000 m² to 25,000 m².
- > 1992-2012: Daikin Europe acquires ±20 distributors in Europe and the Middle East.
- > 2016: Daikin Europe wins the 'Factory of the Future' award for its people-centric and innovative approach.
- > 2016: Daikin Europe invests EUR 25.5 million in Flanders – part of which went to building two ultramodern testing rooms at its R&D center – and is nominated for FIT's 2017 Foreign Investment of the Year Trophy.
- > 2018: Daikin Europe strategically acquires AHT for EUR 881 million.
- > 2019: Daikin Europe wins FIT's Lifetime Achievement Trophy.

Source: <https://www.foreigninvestmenttrophy.be/practical/daikin-wins-lifetime-achievement-trophy-bringing-breath-fresh-air-flanders-1973>

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

Corporate Member

NIPPON RECRUITMENT

Nippon Recruitment は 2008 年にオランダのアムステルダムで創業し、オランダ、ドイツ、ベルギーを中心とした EU 圏内の日本企業の顧客を中心に、日本語話者だけでなく日本企業のビジネス文化にフィットした人材の採用サポートを行っております。弊社はセールス、人事マネージャー、カスタマーサービスマネージャーなど多種多様なポジションの社員採用成功の実績があり、多くの日本企業を主にお客様の人材採用をサポートしております。

日本の商習慣や日本企業ならではのニーズにも精通している弊社の日本人コンサルタントが、それぞれの顧客のニーズに合った採用サポートを実施しております。

弊社にご登録いただく求職者の方にも、転職を通じて何を実現したいかを丁寧にヒアリングし、案件のご紹介を行っています。弊社サービスにご興味をお持ちいただけましたら、ベルギー担当の中石までご連絡ください。(電話番号: +32484678170、mail: ikuko@nipponrecruitment.com)

Nippon Recruitment started its business in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 2008. We support our clients in EU (main focus on Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, UK and France) to search for Japanese speaking candidates or candidates who know the Japanese business culture. We have successfully recruited

a wide variety of positions such as Key Account Manager, HR Manager, Customer Service Manager and many other positions. All our consultants are Japanese who have rich knowledge about the Japanese business culture, so that we are able to meet each of our client's business/cultural requirements. We also conduct interviews with our candidates to understand their needs for the next career step.

If you are interested in our service, please contact our consultant, Ikuko Nakaishi, who is in charge of our clients in Belgium.



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Contact: Ms Ikuko Nakaishi, Recruitment Consultant

FALKEN TYRE EUROPE

Falken Tyre Europe GmbH is the European subsidiary of Japanese tyre manufacturer Sumitomo Rubber Industries Ltd. From its headquarters in Offenbach am Main, Germany, Falken Tyre Europe oversees the marketing of a complete portfolio of tyres for cars, trucks, vans and SUVs as supplier of OEM products and for the European aftermarket. The company has built up a sales network of around 8,000 tyre dealers throughout Eu-

rope, which act as our partners for sales and fitting of our quality products.



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HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS BELGIUM

Hamamatsu Photonics is a world-leading manufacturer of optoelectronic components and systems. The Company's corporate philosophy stresses the advancement of photonics through extensive research and yields products that are regarded as state-of-the-art. Hamamatsu Photonics is present in Belgium since 1993.

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Associate Member

EVENTEAM

Igor Juzon and Bruno Billière created the EVENTEAM GROUP in 2000 with the aim of bringing new life to the sports hospitality market. Since then Eventeam has been present at all major sporting events globally (e.g. The Football and Rugby World Cup, Olympic Games, Roland Garros, etc.).

Eventeam has been the Official Ticketing and Hospitality Agency for the BOIC (Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee) since the Olympics of Rio 2016 and for the French Olympic Committee since 2012.

In 2017 the BOIC awarded Eventeam as the Official Ticketing and Hospitality Agency for the Belgian market for



the 2020 Olympics of Tokyo (24 July until 9 August). As a result of this Eventeam has decided to extend their territory and opened an office in Brussels (2017) and joined the BJA in 2019. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics are expected to be the most innovative Games ever, as will the 2019 Rugby World Cup. In order to experience this please contact us for more information.



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Website: www.eventeam.be
Contact: Mr Pierre-Charles Vanneste, Project Manager Belgium

MARC EVRARD

Marc Evrard is joining BJA as an Associate Member, after a long history of individual and corporate membership. Marc is a Senior Manager specializing in IT Strategy, Public Markets, Corporate Governance and International Business matters. He holds a MSc in IT, a MBA and is a CFA Charterholder (Financial Analysis). Among other languages, he speaks English, Japanese, Dutch and French. Marc is founder, member of the board and COO of Contraste Europe SA/NV www.contraste.com, a IT Services Company serving major Financial, Insurance, Utilities, non-profit, and public organizations for the last 25 years.

Contraste Europe offers Advisory Services (IT strategy, IT procurement, Process Improvement, Transformation to Agile/Digital/Cloud), Application Development, and Managed Infrastructure Services. Contraste Europe also helps you with Oracle Netsuite, Talend ESB and Data Intelligence So-



lutions. Passionate about Japan and the Japanese language, Marc is married to a Japanese national and they have a fully bilingual son of 9.

Until 2018, Marc participated to BJA's Membership Committee and Investment Committee. He then moved to Japan and is now residing with his family in the Itabashi district of Tokyo. Though living far away from Belgium, Marc wished to maintain the link with the BJA, and intends to participate to any event that would be organized during his short stays in Belgium. Marc has also become a member of BLCCJ, the Belgium-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and participates to most of their events in Tokyo.

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Contact: Mr Marc Evrard, Founder & Managing Director



THE NATIONAL
- GOLF BRUSSELS -

THE NATIONAL GOLF BRUSSELS

The National Golf Brussels offers you more than 6 km of pure golfing pleasure! In addition to the pleasures of the great game of golf, tranquillity and a beautiful natural setting are also central features of our course. The location in Sterrebeek (Zaventem) lends itself perfectly to our aims – and to think that at just 5 minutes from the Brussels Ring Road, we are within easy reach for everyone.

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of The National Golf Brussels. And not just of our golf course, but also of our professional training facilities and clubhouse.



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