

Belgium-Japan Association
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TRADE FLOWS & CULTURAL NEWS

Number 133 - December 2021

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OF ROAD
TRANSPORT

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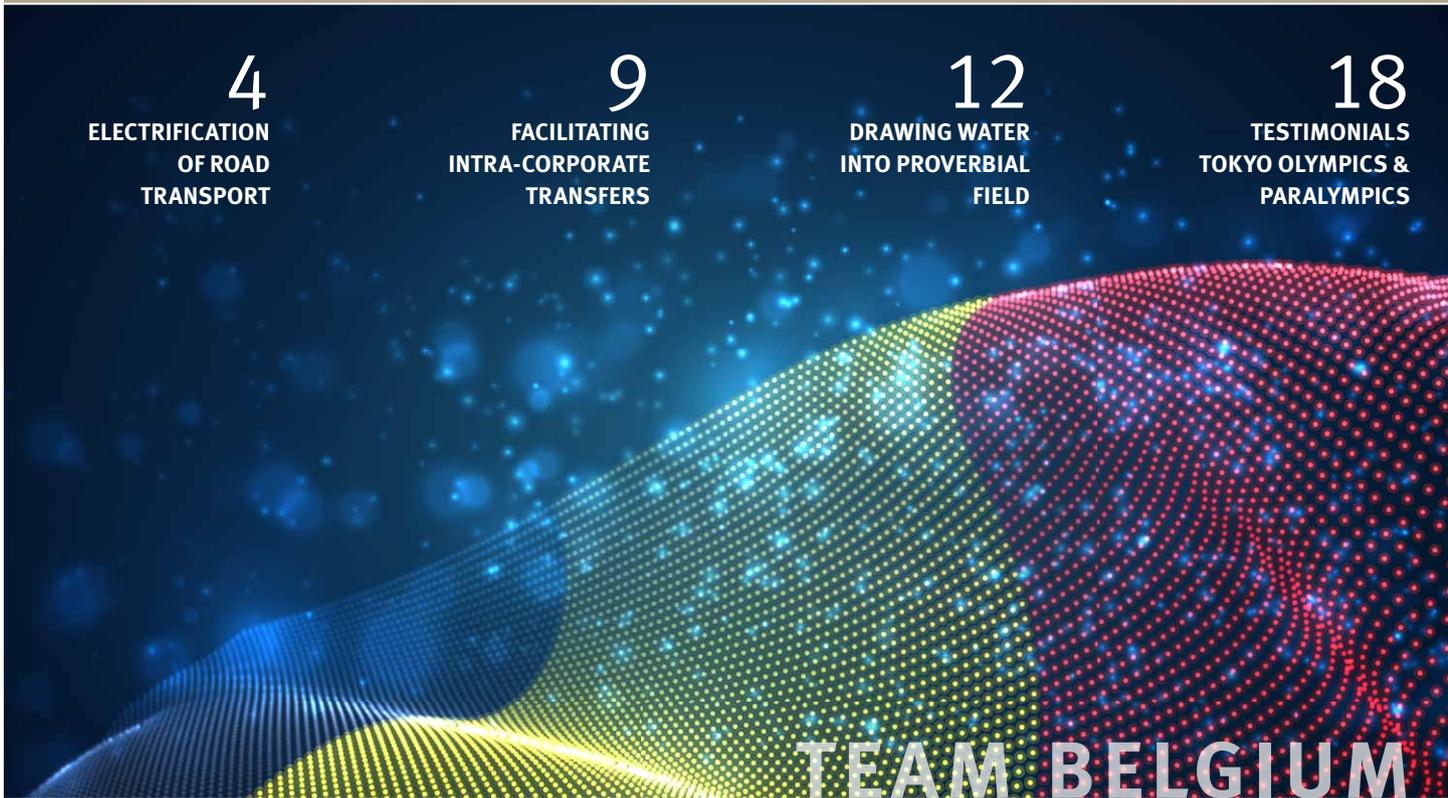
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Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce | Royal Association | Founded in 1963
Registration n° 408.948.139 | RPR Court of Commerce Brussels

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EDITORIAL



Within BJA, we are very happy to announce the creation of a new Committee in 2021! The Innovation, Partnerships & Trade Committee (also known as IPT Committee) will tackle two main objectives which are considered crucial by most in reinforcing the ties between Japan and Belgium's communities.

The first objective of the IPT Committee will naturally lie in enhancing the understanding of doing business with Japan by overcoming differences and reinforcing our commonalities. Our second objective will be to promote a broad scope of activities with regards to export, trade and partnerships with Japan.

In reinforcing the ties between Japan and Belgium's communities, innovation is the central element. It enables new solutions, approaches to solving challenges faced by Japan as well as Belgium and Europe, it is a source of competitive edge in an increasingly competitive global arena and last but not least, it drives business excellence.

On an operational level, the IPT Committee will organize activities towards the wider Belgian-European-Japanese community to inform, to organize, to share the best business practices, to enhance partnerships on various dimensions, to bring businesspeople closer together (for example start-ups, scale-ups, ...) around trade, export and exchange of know-how, research, innovation, technology, goods, services, and much more.

In 2022, we will focus our thematic activities along 4 challenges which are common to Belgium, Europe and Japan as we move past the COVID-19 crisis and need to build a world and economy more resilient and stronger to cope with global challenges coming our way. The first challenge will deal with tackling climate change and decarbonizing the society (energy, mobility and industrial systems) to be fit for climate-neutral Europe and Japan by mid-century. The second challenge will cover the broad topic of circular economy aiming at resource conservation (raw materials, water, land use) & biodiversity to protect nature's ecosystems. The third challenge will be about digitalizing the society towards Society 5.0. The COVID-19 crisis has shown the fantastic power of digital in bringing us closer and keeping family, business, community ties from unravelling. Last but not least, the fourth challenge will be about improving health, slowing down ageing and improving the quality of our nutrition ... to emerge stronger as our demographics evolve and our societies age.

In rolling out our 2022 operational plan, we will happily benefit from the expertise and energy of the various Belgian and Japanese public organizations as well as the European Commission's EU – Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. Wherever and whenever relevant, the IPT Committee will also collaborate with the other BJA Committees to ensure a maximum value is offered to our dear BJA members. In addition, the IPT Committee will co-organize, together with the Belgo-Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce in Japan (BLCC), the YES (Young Executive Stay in Japan) Program under the auspices of His Majesty the King Philippe of Belgium.

We are now looking forward to hearing from you! Any ideas and comments will be paramount to our future success as we kick off the Committee and are shaping our operational plan for 2022. We are also inviting all members for whom innovation is a key business driver to join us and contribute to our work. Innovation always benefits from increased brainpower as the saying goes.

Looking forward to a great year 2022 for the IPT Committee and us all!

By Mr Koh Ichi Masaki,
Head of European Affairs and Agency
Convention Business Centre,
Japan Management Association,
Co-Chair BJA IPT Committee
and
Dr Fabrice Stassin,
Director Government Affairs
Electromobility Projects & Director
Government Affairs Northern Europe,
France & Japan of Umicore,
Co-Chair BJA IPT Committee

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BJA REPORT

The 16th BJA Golf Cup and Golf Initiation
第16回BJAゴルフコンペとゴルフイニシエーション

Saturday, 11 September 2021 – Rinkven International Golf Club - Schilde



Mr Ömer Turna, Partner at EY and the Captain of the EU team, was delighted to reclaim the winning trophy on behalf of his team.



The Golf Initiation participants are enthusiastically following the Pro's explanation.



A happy moment for the participants at the Prize giving, thanks to the kind sponsors.

Thanks to the great support by EY together with many other BJA company members and organizations, the BJA was thrilled to organize the 16th Golf Cup and Golf Initiation event at the beautiful venue of Rinkven International Golf Club in Schilde on Saturday 11 September 2021.

Nearly 60 BJA members and friends enthusiastically joined together, some enjoyed a round of golf with pleasant partners, some discovered the joy of golf through the initiation program. All appreciated the refreshments, cocktails and numerous fantastic prizes to take home during dinner. Especially appreciated were the precious moments to network with each other after such a long time 'together apart'.

This year the prize giving dinner was opened with a special celebration of Mrs Ann Blondé for her 30 years of dedication to the BJA as a Board Member and on behalf of the BJA, Prof. Gilbert Declerck, BJA President, extended a congratulatory speech.

Following, the traditional EU vs. Japan team competition result was announced. After 2 consecutive years of victory, the EU team once again won for the 3rd year in a row and the Captain of the EU team, Mr Ömer Turna, Partner at EY, was so delighted to reclaim the winning trophy on behalf of his team.

The prize award ceremony was adjourned with a closing remark by Mr Koh Ichi Masaki, Head of European Affairs of JMA and Chair of the BJA Cultural Committee, who thanked wholeheartedly the sponsors for their generosity, and the enthusiastic participation of the members and partners while promising that the Japan team will take a serious revenge next year (smile).

The BJA would like to thank you all once again for your presence. It simply was a happy moment for us to be together.

The pictures are by courtesy of Mrs Françoise Demeter of E. & H. De Beukelaer & Co.



THE ELECTRIFICATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT:

BOON OR BURDEN?

By Nicholas Merriman, Manager Valuation Modeling and Economics – EY and Antonio De Rose, Associate Partner Valuation Modeling and Economics – EY

Transportation represents nearly one-third of all EU greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While the EU’s overall emissions have declined by over one percent annually between 1990 and 2019, the transport sector’s emissions have grown by 0.7 percent annually over the same period. It is the only sector whose emissions have grown in the EU: carbon emissions from electricity and heat production, residential and commercial buildings, and industry have all steadily declined.

Decarbonising the transport sector is therefore the most pressing challenge facing the EU today in its bid to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. In order to achieve the EU’s ambitious climate targets, GHG emissions from the transport sector should decline by 90% over the next three decades, relative to 1990 levels. Replacing polluting vehicles with low-carbon options across all transport modes—road, rail and waterborne

transport, and aviation—will be key to achieving these reductions. The four transport modes, though, each face different challenges on the road to net-zero emissions.

Rail transport is the least emissions-intensive transport mode in the EU. Low-carbon options in aviation, waterborne transportation, and heavy-duty road transportation still require technological breakthroughs and cost reductions before reaching full market readiness. Passenger road transport, however, is poised for a swift transition to low-carbon options through the rapid adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). Sales of EVs¹ surpassed those of diesel-powered vehicles in Europe in August, and 2021 is on track to be a record year for EV sales not only in Europe but worldwide as well.

In fact, the total stock of zero emission passenger vehicles² in circulation in the

EU is expected to grow 20-fold in the decade leading up to 2030, corresponding to a 36% CAGR, as shown in Figure 1.

Two key conditions will determine the rate at which passenger car transport can be decarbonised, namely the deployment of public EV chargers, and the deployment of renewable energy production.

As regards charging infrastructure, alleviating the range anxiety felt by consumers is key to convincing a broad range of drivers to switch to EVs. This can only be done with a swift deployment of publicly accessible fast chargers across the EU. It is estimated that the number of public charge points will grow from 185,000 in 2020 to nearly 3 million in 2030, a growth rate that closely mirrors the growth in EV deployment. This deployment of public charging points is expected to cost approximately €20 billion up to 2030.

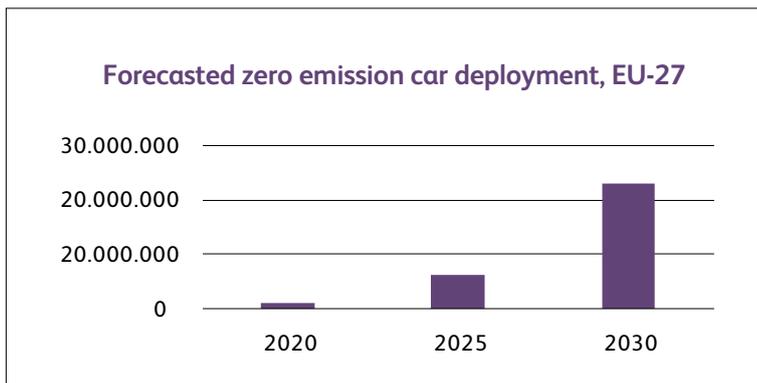


Figure 1: Growth of zero emission vehicle stock in the EU

[1] Including both battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs)

[2] Including BEVs and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs).



EVs as a key solution in integrating renewable energy into the electricity grid

As regards renewable energy deployment, the decarbonisation of road transport must naturally be supported by the decarbonisation of the electricity powering EVs. The EU's road to a decarbonised electricity system comprises a rapid growth in renewable energy production, particularly from solar photovoltaic (solar PV) and wind energy. They are by nature variable renewable energy sources (vRES), i.e. they generate electricity not on demand, but as a function of weather conditions (solar irradiance and wind power, respectively). Variable renewable energy sources are expected to contribute to at least 36% of the EU's electricity consumption by 2030, compared to 19% in 2020.

The increasing share of variable renewable energy in the EU's electricity mix represents a growing challenge, namely that of storage. Electricity is consumed nearly instantaneously, and electricity grids must balance supply and demand at all times—meaning that grid managers are constantly making adjustments to address variations in supply and demand. With a growing share of variable renewable energy production, there is an increased likelihood of excess electricity production. When this happens,

renewable energy production may have to be curtailed. Energy storage, for instance in the form of batteries, can help prevent curtailment, as they can be charged in times of excess production, and discharged back to the grid in times of excess consumption.

Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) could be an ingenious and efficient solution to the electricity grid's storage problems. BEVs are, on average, parked for over 90% of the time in the EU. They are, from the grid manager's perspective, akin to batteries on wheels—they could be charged and discharged on demand to address the needs of the electricity grid³. The International Energy Agency expects that EV batteries will be able to store approximately 75 kWh, on average, by 2030⁴. The approximately 23 million BEVs expected to be deployed by 2030 in the EU could therefore represent a storage capacity of up to 1,500 GWh approximately. Should we even utilise one-tenth of one percent of this capacity, we would nearly double the amount of distributed residential battery storage capacity in the EU, which currently stands at 2 GWh. While vehicle-to-grid technologies are subject to a number of technical⁵ and regulatory limitations, it is clear that EVs represent a significant untapped potential for energy storage.

Leveraging vehicle-to-grid technologies for additional benefits

Vehicle-to-grid technologies give rise to additional benefits, beyond the support to integrating vRES discussed above. A first benefit is that of alleviating the impacts of EVs on electricity distribution grids: the smart management of EV charging can be used to avoid charging a large number of EVs at peak distribution network congestion times, often experienced in the evening. By acting as batteries, EVs could potentially be managed to discharge energy to the grid in such peak load events.

Another key benefit of vehicle-to-grid technologies is in fact an indirect benefit resulting from those discussed above: the flexible storage capacity that EVs can contribute to electricity grids is valuable to energy producers and to grid managers, who would compensate EV owners and charging network operators for participating in vehicle-to-grid schemes. This compensation could help bring down the total cost of ownership for EVs, and help improve the business case for charging network operation, resulting in additional incentives for an accelerated decarbonisation of passenger road transport.

[3] Utilising batteries in this way is usually referred to as "vehicle-to-grid", and requires transformers capable of converting DC current to AC, and vice-versa.

[4] Clean Technica, 2020, International Energy Agency: Electric Vehicle Battery Tech Rapidly Improving

[5] e.g. requirement for bidirectional-capable transformers, care needed to avoid battery degradation, limitations on the power that can be discharged to the grid.

BJA Webinar on International Remote Working BJA ウェビナー: 多国間リモートワーク

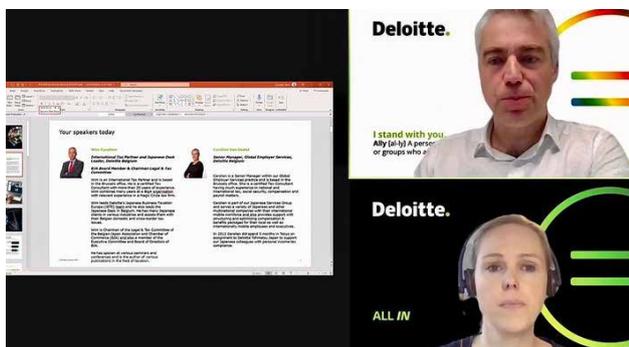
Wednesday, 20 October 2021 – Digital event - 2021年10月20日

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Wim Depondt, Senior Legal Advisor at Group S discussed the many HR related aspects employers will have to address



Wim Eynatten, International Tax Partner of Deloitte and BJA Legal & Tax Committee Chair and Carolien Van Gestel, Senior Manager Global Employer Services at Deloitte, discussed the tax implications of international remote working.



The speakers teaming up to share their expertise and insights

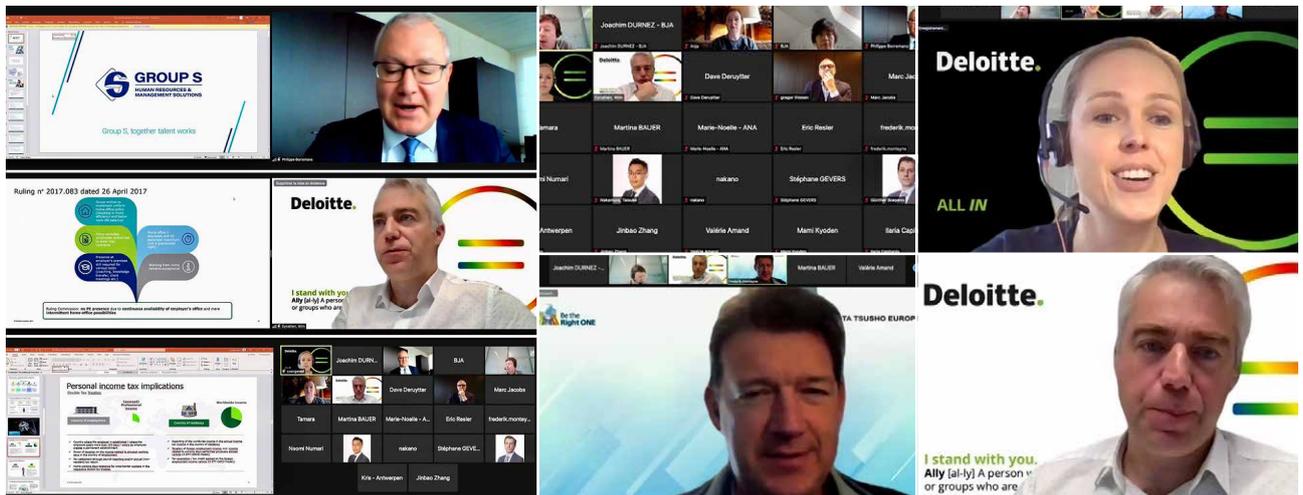
COVID-19 has made remote working increasingly common. Now that employees are gradually returning to their offices it becomes clear that remote working is here to stay. However, a significant amount of uncertainty remains in relation to international remote working and careful consideration is needed. The BJA Legal & Tax Committee and BJA Membership Committee therefore organized a webinar discussing the HR and tax related aspects of international remote working.

and Carolien Van Gestel, Senior Manager Global Employer Services at Deloitte, discussed the tax implications of international remote working.

Following their presentation, Philippe Borremans, International Affairs Manager of Group S and BJA Membership Committee Chair and Wim Depondt, Senior Legal Advisor at Group S discussed the many HR related aspects employers will have to address when dealing with remote working at home and abroad.

After giving some welcome words, Wim Eynatten, International Tax Partner of Deloitte and BJA Legal & Tax Committee Chair

The event ended with an in-depth Q & A from the audience.



Webinar on International Data Transfers - Latest developments to become compliant 個人データの国際移転ウェビナー: コンプライアンス重視の観点から近年の進展を学ぶ

Wednesday, 27 October 2021 – Digital event - 2021年10月27日

Be it the Schrems II judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the recent Recommendations of the European Data Protection Regulation (EDPB), or the new Standard Contractual Clauses (SCC), businesses have a lot on their plate to enable valid data transfers.

With this in mind, the BJA EU Committee decided to organize a webinar with experts from Linklaters LLP, the European Commission and EY to discuss the latest developments and the supplementary legal, technical or organizational measures companies must implement to continue lawfully transfer personal data to third countries.

Danielle Vermaelen, Partner, EY & BJA EU Committee Chair welcomed the guests and opened the session. She was followed by Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner, Global Head of Data Protection, Head of TMT & IP Brussels, Linklaters LLP & BJA Vice-President and Executive Committee Chair, and Garance Dekeyser, TMT & IP Brussels, Linklaters LLP, who presented the latest legal developments relating to international personal data transfers in the EU and beyond.

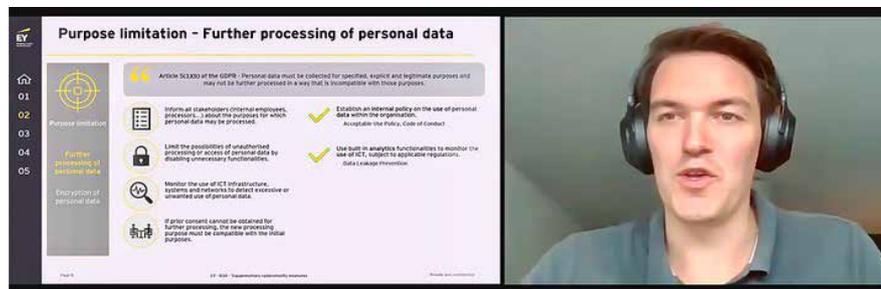
Following this first presentation, Mr Van Overstraeten discussed these latest developments and future perspectives with Bruno Gencarelli, Head of Unit – International Data Transfers and Protection, EU Commission.

After this very insightful conversation, Yannick Scheelen, Senior Manager Cybersecurity and Privacy at EY gave a thorough presentation on the various measures companies can implement to secure personal data flows.

The event ended with a Q & A session moderated by Mrs Vermaelen.



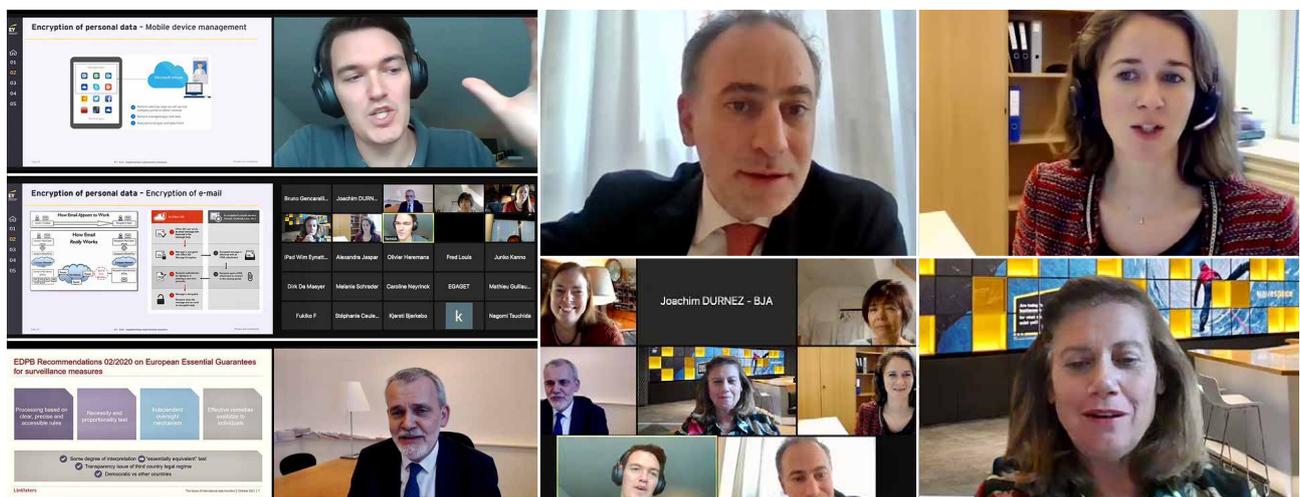
Garance Dekeyser, TMT & IP Brussels, Linklaters LLP, presented the latest legal developments relating to international personal data transfers in the EU and beyond.



Yannick Scheelen, Senior Manager Cybersecurity and Privacy at EY gave a thorough presentation on the various measures companies can implement to secure personal data flows.



Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner at Linklaters LLP & BJA Vice-President discussed the latest developments and future perspectives with Bruno Gencarelli, Head of Unit – International Data Transfers and Protection, EU Commission.



EU-Japan news

EU COMMISSIONER THIERRY BRETON IN JAPAN TO DISCUSS DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP, SEMICONDUCTOR, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

Commissioner Thierry Breton, travelled to Japan at the end of September to engage with officials and industry leaders. This was an opportunity to discuss the upcoming European Chips Act and develop contacts on the broader digital partnership agreement with Japan which was announced in the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy.

On 28 September, Commissioner Breton met the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, the Minister for Digital Transformation, the Chairman of the Board of NEC, and the CEO of Fujitsu.

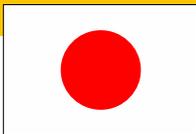
The following day, on 29 September, Commissioner Breton met with the CEO of Tokyo Electron (TEL), one of the major Japanese semiconductor companies, and attended a round table discussion with 15 European and Japanese business representatives, including Mitsubishi Electric which co-chairs the EU-Japan Business Round table and invited the Commissioner to participate in the next BRT meeting on 4 November 2021.

These discussions laid out deliverables on 5G technologies, quantum computing, artificial intelligence and semiconductors. Commissioner Breton's exchanges with counterparts in Japan

come as the global shortage of semiconductors hampers European and Japanese companies, from automakers to broadband providers

In the context of the new geopolitics surrounding semiconductors, these constructive exchanges with Japan officials and companies are useful when preparing the ground for the European Chips Act, building stable supply chains and strengthening the EU-Japan cooperation on chips and the broad digital partnership agreement (...)

Source: <https://www.eu-japan.eu/sites/default/files/publications/docs/october21.pdf>



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FACILITATING INTRA-CORPORATE TRANSFERS

FROM JAPAN TO BELGIUM AND THE EU

By Matthias Lommers, Senior Director Deloitte Immigration Services and member of BJA Legal & Tax Committee, Joke Braam, Senior Manager Deloitte Immigration Services and member of BJA Editorial Committee, and Rimma Abadjan, Manager Deloitte Immigration Services

Speedy transfer of employees from a Japanese entity to a Belgian entity of the same company group is essential in an interconnected world where companies function beyond borders and time zones. An intra-corporate transfer from Japan to Belgium that also allows consequent deployment across the European Union can additionally meet the needs of many businesses requiring flexibility and quick responses to market demand. The EU ICT permit, which was implemented in Belgium, is a great tool to facilitate those personnel movements.

日本からベルギー及びEUへの企業内異動の促進

クロスボーダーで活躍する企業にとって、日本から同じ企業グループ内のベルギー子会社へ従業員を迅速に異動させることは必要不可欠です。EU全域への展開を可能にする日本からベルギーへの企業内異動は、柔軟性と市場需要への迅速な対応を必要とする多くの企業のニーズを更に満たすことになるでしょう。2021年の第4四半期にベルギーで導入されたEU ICT許可証は、このような人材移動を促進する有効な方法となります。

What is an EU ICT permit?

The EU introduced a favourable scheme for intra-corporate transfers in 2016. The EU ICT permit allows intra-corporate transferees – managers, specialists and trainees – to be assigned from a company outside the EU to a company of the same group in the EU.

With an ICT permit issued in one EU member state, an ICT permit holder can also work with companies of the same group in other EU Member States under more lenient conditions. The so-called intra-EU mobility rights allow working across the EU for up to 90 days under condition of a simple notification in most EU countries, and for more than 90 days under condition of an application for a mobile ICT permit in the second and all following EU Member States.

Implementation in Belgium

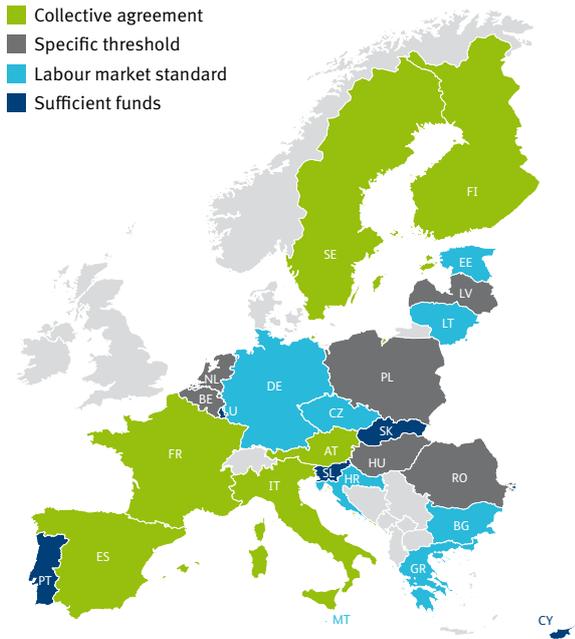
In Belgium, holders of an EU ICT permit from another EU Member State benefit since 2019 from an intra-EU mobility right up to 90 days under condition of a prior notification to the authorities. They can undertake any work activities in Belgium without additional work permit if they have an EU ICT permit from a different EU country.

Belgium implements the full EU ICT scheme which allows the intra-corporate transferees to obtain an ICT permit in Belgium and benefit from intra-EU mobility rights in other countries of the EU. Current conditions regarding diploma and salary thresholds to obtain a single permit for highly-skilled workers and executives are similarly applicable to ICT specialists, trainees and managers. The single application process will be identical and an ICT permit can be valid for up to 3 years.

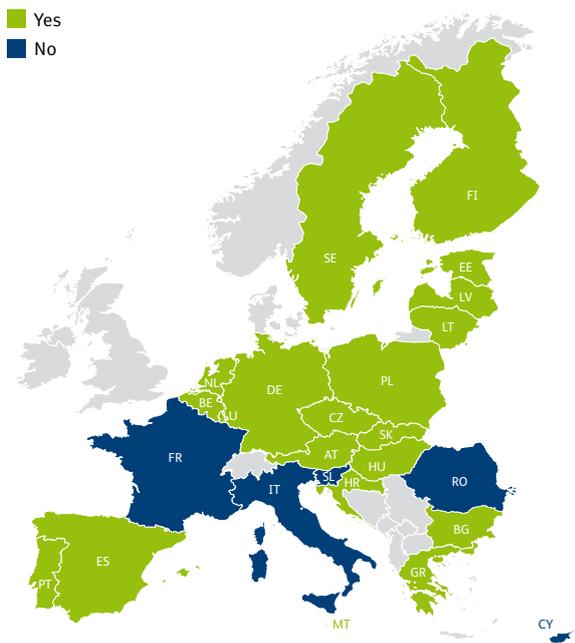
Why consider an EU ICT permit?

Given that the conditions to obtain an EU ICT permit and the

In most countries additional mechanisms serve as a total to verify the exact requirements, e.g. publicly available statistics on salaries in different sectors or publicly accessible collective agreements.



? Does the ICT permit allow work at a client site?



process are similar to those required to obtain a single permit for highly-skilled workers and executives in Belgium, the question arises as to what benefit the ICT permit offers and why it should (or not) be preferred over a single permit.

The intra-EU mobility rights presented by EU ICT permit are the main advantage of the scheme that cannot be offered by any national scheme. The EU ICT scheme has a pan-European working allowing to deploy personnel across Europe while other intra-corporate migration options remain national and thus do not offer any working nor residency rights in other European countries. Flexibility offered by the EU ICT permit is unparalleled in that respect.

Are there any challenges?

While the benefit is clear, the intra-EU mobility rights offered by the EU ICT permit must be approached in a holistic way. Besides the immigration rules, which are clearly set out in the legislation, other aspects of cross-border employment must also be taken into account.

The European legislation on posted workers might require to notify the authorities of the secondment of a Japanese employee in an European Member State where the EU-mobility rights are exercised. The working conditions of the seconded employees must be no less favorable than the those of local employees. The social security coordination between Japan and Belgium must be considered on the one hand, but also the coordination between Japan and the second European country where the employee would be exercising the intra-EU mobility rights must be addressed. Those questions often arise in context involving at least 3 different countries which calls for compliance in all concerned jurisdictions.

Deloitte’s ICT Permit Study 2021

Since the introduction of the EU ICT permit in 2016, practice in the Member States has evolved increasing links between immigration, social security and labour law. Moreover, the changed mobility landscape, where employees are increasingly working from home or working in multiple locations, and certainly on more diverse projects for different entities within one group, triggered the publication of Deloitte’s ICT Permit Study.

Our 2021 study examines how the ICT Directive is implemented in practice across the EU, with specific details on the main concerns raised over the first few years after implementation.

The availability of alternative national schemes, the interpretation of set conditions for an ICT permit, processing times of applications and the possibility to work at client sites are all more closely examined.

	Short-term mobility			Long-term mobility			
	No PWN is required, only an ICT notification	The ICT notification includes the PWM	The PWN includes the ICT notification	Both ICT notification and PWN are required	Mobile ICT permit application and a PWN are required	Mobile ICT permit application includes PWN	No PWN is required, only the mobile ICT permit application
Austria			✓			✓	
Belgium			✓		✓		
Bulgaria		✓				✓	
Croatia			✓		✓		
Cyprus				✓			✓
Czech Republic				✓			✓
Estonia		✓				✓	
Finland				✓	✓		
France				✓	✓		

As an example, according to the Directive, salary granted to an intra-corporate transferee cannot be less favourable than salary granted to a national in a comparable position of the Member State in which they operate.

This requirement is adhered to by Member States in different ways: national authorities require to adhere to collective agreements, or labour market standards or impose a specific threshold (as in Belgium) or require sufficient funds.

The work at a client site is an important feature for specific sectors. Our study found out that most EU Member States do allow work at client site in unrestricted manner facilitating work on different projects for a variety of clients across Europe.

This study also digs deeper into the different aspects of intra-EU mobility, which is the great advantage of the scheme, but also represents a challenge from compliance point of view. The notification and/or an additional application for a mobile ICT permit in the second Member State are an example of this interlink.

Deloitte presented this study in November to provide some useful insights on the implementation of the EU ICT permit across the EU.

Conclusion

The ICT scheme offers multinational companies the ability to employ their non-EU employees in multiple EU member states simultaneously, while at the same time simplifying the required immigration formalities.

The scheme addresses the increasing need for flexible international employment across EU borders and offers options and solutions for Japanese companies who need to move their employees within the EU. The ICT scheme is already intensively used for intra-corporate assignments in some EU Member States, however in others the advantages have not yet fully realized. Belgium offers an advantageous interpretation of the EU ICT permit regulations being an interesting gateway to the EU for Japanese employees.

The EU ICT permit can be ultimately a very useful instrument for intra-corporate mobility of workers and the advantages must be explored further while it will be crucial to continue to review the scheme and its implementation in a holistic way, considering the employment, social security and tax aspects of international employment.

DRAWING WATER INTO THE PROVERBIAL FIELD

By W. Vande Walle, Prof. em. of Japanese Studies,
KU Leuven and Member of the Board of BJA

The title is a pun on a Japanese proverb, *gaden insui*, which literally means: to draw water into one's own field. Its English proverbial equivalent is usually given as: Every miller draws water to his own mill. The pithy Japanese proverb is one of nearly four hundred entries included in the proverb dictionary *Sekai kotowaza hikaku jiten* (A comparative dictionary of proverbs in the world), published late last year by the major Japanese publishing house Iwanami shoten. *Gaden insui* The proverb of the title refers to the self-seeking or self-serving behaviour most people display most of the time, expressed here by the simile of the farmer drawing or diverting? water to irrigate his own field. The Japanese proverb already existed in the Edo period, occurring in various variants. Proverbs with a similar meaning are equally found in the West, where the simile is usually based on that of the miller drawing water to his own mill.

Comparative approach

Japan has a rich tradition of proverb collections and dictionaries. The reader may wonder why there was a need for yet another dictionary. The answer is that its originality lies in the breadth of its comparative approach. While it is obviously primarily compiled with the Japanese reader in mind, anyone interested in the subject may profit from it. If one wants to look up a proverb in some foreign language, one has two options: surfing the Internet, or consulting a dictionary or reference work of foreign proverbs. More often than not, one does not find what one is looking for. Narrowing down the search does not necessarily yield the hoped for result. A proverb in one of the major languages may be found in a multitude of reference works, but a proverb of a lesser used language, may be harder to come by.

This dictionary was compiled with an aim of overcoming such problem. The compilers have based themselves on a selection of 300 commonly used Japanese proverbs. On the basis of this selection, they have collected proverbs with similar content in other languages or language areas. Thus the selection of 300 Japanese proverbs has become the window through which the reader can look into the abundance of proverbs in the world.

The compilation of this reference book had a long gestation period. As early

as January 2010, the *Nihon kotowaza bunka gakkai* (Japanese Society for the Study of the Culture of Proverbs) set up a committee with a view to compiling a three-part collection of proverbs. The first part would be devoted to the international comparison of 300 proverbs commonly used in Japan. The second part would be an international comparison of 30 species of animals as they appear in the proverbs in the various languages and cultures of the world. The third part would offer a collection of idiosyncratic proverbs that were deemed typical for a specific language and its culture. Due to difficulties of coordination, the compilation of the second and third parts was postponed, and it was decided to go ahead with the first part as a separate compilation. Initially, the compilers opted for a comparison with some ten languages, but after several revisions the selection eventually was widened to no less than 25 languages: Classical Greek, Latin, English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish (Spain), Romanian, Hungarian, Russian, Georgian, Swahili, Chiga, Spanish (Mexico), Arabic, Turkish, Nepali, Hindi, Indonesian, Tibetan, Mongolian, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean. Thus we find at the one extreme of this broad spectrum the classical language of ancient Greece and at the other extreme Chiga, the language of the Kiga people, an ethnic group of Uganda and Rwanda, that was first written in the second half of the nineteenth century.

明治大学図書館 明治大学博物館 明治大学ことわざ学研究所 主催

ことわざワールドへようこそ

時田昌瑞ことわざコレクションのすべて

日本ことわざ文化学会 後援

2010/5/28(金) 13:00 開幕

入場無料

●中央図書館ギャラリー(リハビリタワー1F)
 会期 5月28日(金)~7月7日(水) 休館日 5/31(月) 6/30(木)
 開館時間 (月~土) 8:30~21:45 (土) 8:30~18:45 (日) 10:00~18:45

●博物館特別展示室(アカデミー・ロモン1F)
 会期 5月28日(金)~7月19日(月+祝) 会期中無休
 開館時間 10:00~17:00 (入館は16:30まで)

MEIJI UNIVERSITY

Poster announcing the opening of the exhibition of Tokita Masamizu's kotowaza collection at Meiji University in 2010.

The editors were Tokita Masamizu, vice president of the Nihon *kotowaza bunka gakkai*, and Yamaguchi Masanobu, professor emeritus of Meiji University. They enlisted the collaboration of 29 specialists to identify, assemble, arrange and explain the corresponding proverbs from the set of 25 languages. This initially resulted in a collection of more than 6500 items. An average of 22 corresponding proverbs were found for each of the Japanese proverbs. These proverbs were, of course, not 'identical' to the Japanese ones, but in any case they were sufficiently similar in meaning, content or imagery to be considered a similar or equivalent proverb. The Japanese proverb with the highest number of foreign equivalents turned out to be *Shu ni majiwareba akaku naru* (Whoever deals with red will turn red; English equivalent: If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas), for which no fewer than 52 equivalents were collected. Second came *Toranu tanuki no kawazanyô* (Count the skin of a raccoon before it is bagged; English: Don't count your chickens before they are hatched) with 47 equivalents. In third place came *Mitsugo no tamashii hyaku made* (The

soul of a three-year old child will last even if it lives a hundred years; English: What is learned in the cradle is carried to the grave), of which 46 corresponding proverbs were found. In fourth place came *Honeori-zon no kutabire-môke* (Efforts lost, fatigue gained; English: Look for a needle in a haystack), of which 45 correspondents were found, and in fifth place came *Kuchi wa wazawai no kado* (The mouth is the gateway to disaster; English: A closed mouth catches no flies) of which 40 equivalents were registered. Conversely, there were 20 Japanese proverbs with less than ten correspondents. The Japanese proverb with the fewest correspondents is *Toritsuku shima nashi* (No island in sight to land on), of which only 4 correspondents were found. Only French (1), Dutch (2) and Mongolian (1) appear to have an equivalent. Five correspondents were found for *Oni ni kanabô* (an iron bar into the hands of a devil).

Even though the compilation was based on a selection of 300 Japanese proverbs, the dictionary now contains 395 entries. After the initial collection, the compilers have indeed added 95 prov-

erbs as reference: well-known proverbs with meanings close yet different from one or more of the selected 300. Certain proverbs have many variants in certain languages. Therefore each entry features several variants of both the Japanese proverb and the equivalent foreign proverbs. As a matter of principle the compilers have limited them to 5 variants per language. It will be clear that compiling and arranging all these data contributed from a total of 31 people was a laborious and arduous task, a fact that explains why it took so long for this compilation to see the light.

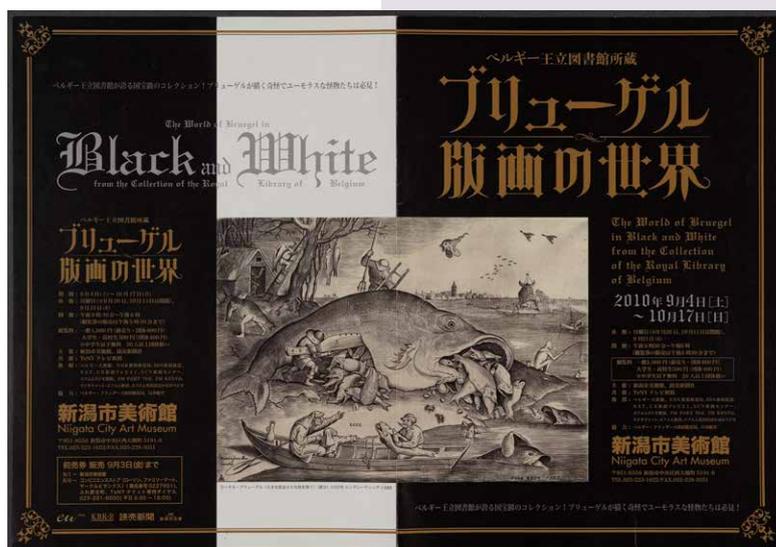
Netherlandisch proverbs

For the Dutch and Flemish proverbs, the editors have relied on the expertise of Mori Yôko, David De Cooman, and the undersigned, in addition assisted by Suzanne Akieda and Takano Akiko. That may look like a disproportionately large number of experts for one language. Was this a case of us drawing too much water into our own field? Perhaps, but it was in the first place attributable to the fame and status the Netherlandish proverbs of the Pieter Bruegels (the Elder and the Younger) enjoy in Japan. In turn, the popularity of the Netherlandish proverbs in Japan is in no small degree the result of a lifelong scholarship devoted to the subject by Mori Yôko, Japan's leading expert on the Bruegel painters' dynasty, and an internationally acclaimed authority in the field. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the historically most famous collection of proverbs, the *Adagia* of Erasmus, and the most famous painting illustrating proverbs, *Netherlandish Proverbs* by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, both hailed from the Low Countries, where a rich proverbial culture seems to have flowered.

Kotowaza and proverbs

Japanese and Western proverb dictionaries and collections are very different in the amount of explanation they usually include. In Japanese, as a rule, the reader will find not only a definition for each entry, but also a short commen-

Poster announcing the opening of the exhibition of Bruegel's prints from the collection of the Royal Library of Belgium, held in 2010 at the Niigata City Art Museum, curated by Mori Yōko.



tary, possibly completed with a text-book example. Representative of this method is Tokita Masamizu's *Shirarezaru kotowaza* (Unknown proverbs), which lists 200 little known proverbs, for each one suggesting in what circumstances it can be used, and adding ample personal commentary on its meaning. One could argue that Japanese collections tend towards a more didactic attitude, while Western collections usually limit themselves to a simple listing or keep any commentary concise. *Sekai kotowaza hikaku jiten* pays special attention to the origin, the historical development or background of the proverbs. Many proverbs are of foreign origin, deriving from classical writings in classical languages. In the case of Japan, these are, of course, often classical Chinese writings, but since the Meiji Restoration Greek and Latin sources have equally been tapped. The dictionary has tried to indicate the origin as much as possible. In the case of proverbs of Japanese origin, an attempt has been made to reproduce as old as possible examples of the proverb used.

Some paremiologists (practitioners of proverb scholarship) hold that proverbs should be anonymous. Strictly adhering to this rule they tend to reject any "quotation". In his five-volume *Nippon no kotowaza* (1958-1961), Kaneko Takeo thus rejected all Chinese citation prov-

erbs. As Confucian sayings would never be dissociated from their authors, he deliberately did not count these sayings among the proverbs. However, the anonymous origin of proverbs primarily characterizes cultures with an oral literary tradition. Among peoples with a rich written tradition, such as the Japanese, anonymity is by no means the general rule. Many proverbs can be traced to an identifiable author or book. The comparative dictionary under review here does indeed include detailed explanations for certain entries about their origin: quotes from thinkers or authors, passages from religious scriptures, etc. Classical Greek proverbs and their Latin versions, for example, are for the most part culled from the *Adagia* of Erasmus. Erasmus' collection inspired intellectuals all over Europe to translate his book or to compile vernacular proverb collections in their own language. Many of Erasmus' adages have become commonplace in many European languages, and still live on today.

How have the compilers defined what is a commonly used proverb? They have taken a pragmatic and inclusive approach, ostensibly subsuming under the term *kotowaza* (proverb) not only proverbs strictly speaking but also cognate variants such as adages, aphorisms, maxims, or apophthegms. The meaning of *kotowaza* is definitely broader

than that of 'proverb'. Their point of departure was a collection of proverbs compiled by Tokita Masamizu over the course of many years. His research has encompassed the entire Japanese literary tradition from the *Kojiki* (712) down to the contemporary newspapers. He has brought together examples of use from a wealth of sources. His collection of examples includes about 60,000 items from the period up to and including the Edo period, 20,000 examples from the Meiji period up to and including World War II, and finally 40,000 from the post-war period. In a next step, he has determined a criterion of frequency for the post-war period. Proverbs of which he has found fewer than 20 examples are not common. Common are all cases of which he has found more than 20 examples. Using this parameter he has defined five categories. The first category includes those whose number of examples fluctuates between 20 and 29; the second category encompasses a frequency between 30 and 39, the third category between 40 and 49, the fourth between 50 and 59, the fifth category anything above 60 examples.

It is assumed that in present-day usage about 1000 proverbs are regularly heard and used. From this set of 1000, the compiler has chosen 300 as entries. In the selection of 300 he was guided by two principles: firstly, the frequency of

the proverb used, secondly, its proverbiality (*kotowaza-rashisa*): characteristics such as rhythm, brevity, rhyme, pithiness, striking comparison or imagery, use of numerals, and occasionally also the interweaving of vulgar or colloquial language.

In this dictionary the foreign proverbs are not only translated literally into Japanese, but also quoted in their original spelling. For the Chiga language the International Phonetic Alphabet was used. According to the compilers, this is one of the features that distinguish this dictionary from most others of its kind. We can imagine that the use of so many different writing systems has caused the editors and layout designers considerable headache.

The compilers note that many proverbs have become so entrenched in daily usage that they are perceived by most language users as original Japanese proverbs. Research into their origin or their historical development reveals that certain proverbs are, against all expectations, of foreign origin, or at least that there is a good chance that they are.

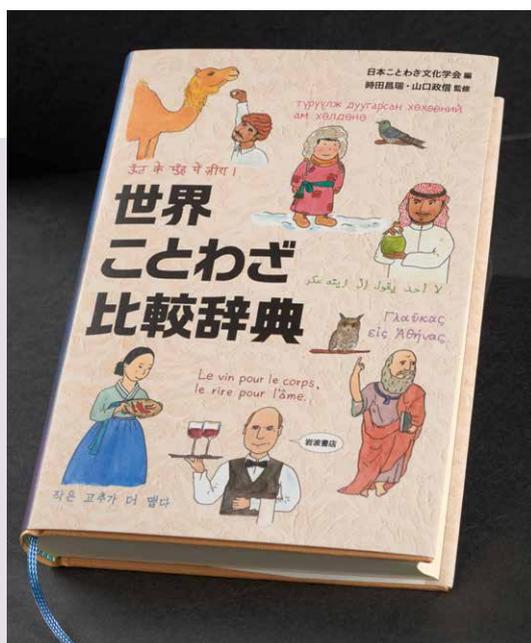
As is well known, many proverbs have their origin in the Chinese classics and later, from the Meiji period, in the western classics and the Bible, just as many of the proverbs in Western languages derive from the Bible or the Greek and Latin classics. What is less obvious is that there also appear to be a number of proverbs that apparently are of Japanese origin and have found acceptance abroad, although the compilers have not indicated which these are. Furthermore, it is also noticeable that in some cases languages and language areas that are very far apart and where any mutual influence is very unlikely, nevertheless have certain proverbs that are identical in meaning, expression, metaphor or imagery. For example, *Sendô ôku shite fune yama e noboru* (If a ship has too many helmsmen, it runs aground on a mountain; English equivalent: Too many cooks spoil the broth) can also be found in Swahili in virtually the same wording.

In Japan there is a huge corpus of artefacts and visual material that feature proverbs, or represent or suggest the content of a proverb by visuals means: figurines, prints, illustrations, *hikifuda*

(advertisement pamphlet), etc. *Iroha karuta* (set of cards featuring a proverb for each letter of the alphabet) in particular are known as illustrative representations of proverbs. There are more than 500 varieties of *iroha karuta* in Japan, covering a period from the late Edo period to the twentieth century. It is of course impossible to include them in a dictionary like this, but Tokita, who himself owns a gigantic collection of those objects and images, has on occasion referred to them. He has indeed amassed in the course of thirty years a huge collection of proverb emblazoned artefacts. The collection includes items ranging from the Edo period (1600-1867) and earlier down to the present. It comprises paintings, sculptures, woodblock prints, books, *iroha karuta*, as well as items from everyday life such as clothes, mirrors, combs, boxes, ink stones, plates for food, signboards, helmets, swords, tea ceremony utensils, cigarette boxes, pipes, doll talismans, etc. He donated the major part of his collection, some 3500 items, to Meiji University (Tokyo) in 2007. His monumental *Dictionary of Japanese Illustrated Proverbs* (Tokyo Shoseki Publ. Co., 2008) lists 2177 proverbs and features 4127 illustrations, qualifying it as the first large-scale illustrated Japanese proverb book.

Pro proverb or contra?

Anyone who studies the language and culture of a country inevitably comes across sayings and proverbs. The pithy language and variety of images hold an undeniable attraction for many. Although the famous paremiologist Wolfgang Mieder has defined a proverb as “wisdom expressed in a sentence”, some have put them down as mere vehicles of pseudo wisdom. They have criticized numerous features: not only the archaic wording and inherent contradictions, but also the existence of anti-proverbs and politically incorrect sayings. Lord Chesterfield once summed up this dismissive attitude: “a man of fashion never has recourse to proverbs



Dust jacket of *Sekai kotowaza hikaku jiten*.

and vulgar aphorisms.” For intellectuals who endorsed his view, the cultural language was therefore equivalent to a language that was “free of proverbs”.

This negative attitude towards proverbs is not endorsed by most language users. In what is perhaps yet another case of drawing water into one’s own field, Wolfgang Mieder insists that “proverbs are never out of season”.¹ Even in a technologically advanced, modern society like Japan, proverbs (*kotowaza*) remain popular, as is borne out by the huge output of publications on *kotowaza*. Besides new proverbs are continuously being coined, thanks to the creative contribution of people in various walks of life. As a living heritage, proverbs embody the bond between successive generations. In addition, compared to banal statements, they have a stronger thrust in driving a particular message home. Therefore, proverbs are useful in speeches, political rhetoric, headlines, advertising slogans, etc. In the mouths of shrewd orators and propagandists they can even become weapons of manipulation. Fierce debat-

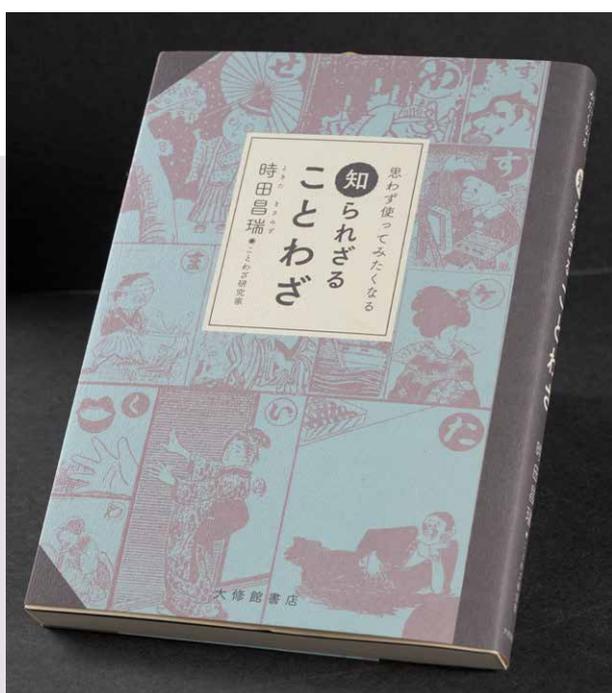
ers may use them to shut the mouth of their adversary.

Although certain proverbs may bespeak a one-sided or narrow-minded view on things or man, we must not forget that they are neither absolute nor proclaim universal truths. Their significance has to be appreciated within a contextual framework. When we comment on a situation with a proverb, we choose a saying that seems appropriate, if necessary adding, deleting or changing some words in it. Sometimes this produces a parodying effect, but even then, the proverb’s insights into human nature and the world are spot on. Thanks to the metaphorical use of language, the wording of proverbs is flexible and adaptable to a specific situation.

Publishers of proverb anthologies have sometimes received criticism about the overtly discriminatory tone of some proverbs. Not only have feminists voiced their criticism, but other readers too have expressed their disapproval of the inclusion of proverbs that make physically handicapped or socially weak

people a target for irony or parody. This opposition presents editors and publishers with a dilemma: remaining faithful to scientific rigour, or self-restraint and accommodation to new social sensibilities. The compilers of the dictionary under review here seem to have steered clear of the pitfalls of political correctness, although one can never be sure. I hope no farmer or miller takes umbrage at the proverb I have started this short essay with. I for one plead guilty of indulging myself in the practice of drawing some water into my own field. How else could the reader qualify the random thoughts I have spelled out here about a book project in which I have myself an admittedly modest stake.²

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1. Wolfgang Mieder. *Proverbs are Never out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
 2. There is a huge body of scholarship on proverbs, and the authors I have referred to in this short essay are among the most prolific in this field. I cannot even begin to list their major publications in this limited space.



Dust jacket of Tokita Masamizu's *Shirarezaru kotowaza*.

BRUSSELS PHILHARMONIC INTRODUCES ITS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR: KAZUSHI ONO WILL SUCCEED STÉPHANE DENÈVE IN SEPTEMBER 2022

Maestro Kazushi Ono has once again chosen Brussels: the consummate conductor, whose vision spans continents, cultures and genres, will be the new music director of the Brussels Philharmonic. The match is made in heaven, as became clear last season in his first collaboration with the orchestra as well as in their shared vision and future plans.

The Brussels Philharmonic has been on an extraordinary journey over the past decade: the orchestra has distinguished itself both nationally and internationally with a distinctive profile, outstanding artistic performances, prestigious partnerships, innovative projects and (inter) national recognition. The appointment of Stéphane Denève as music director in 2014 helped drive this momentum.

On 30 June 2022, Maestro Denève will conduct his final concert with the Brussels Philharmonic as its music director – the climax of a leadership in which 21st-century music and the great orchestral repertoire occupied a central place.

Starting in the 2022-23 season, Kazushi Ono will take up the baton as music director, and will further reinforce and develop the main lines traced in the past

few years. Maestro Ono shares the DNA of the Brussels Philharmonic: a passion for new music, a desire to keep the great repertoire alive and to continue exploring it, and a permanent quest for innovation and evolution, connected unfailingly to authenticity, engagement and above all to sharing the love of music.



Kazushi Ono:

"I am thrilled to accept the position of Music Director of the Brussels Philharmonic. Our first encounter early this year was a real pleasure. I could feel that we have chemistry and that we share the same musical values. I am impressed by the players' sound, sensibility, flexibility and passion, and I am certain of our potential to achieve something meaningful together. In my role as Music Director I will try to construct a broad base in my programming, with repertoire ranging from Classical through to the music of today. As we develop our relationship, we will open many doors and create a different world inside each one"

The Brussels Philharmonic is delighted that Maestro Ono, who with his breadth of knowledge and experience is a mainstay both at home and abroad, has chosen to return to Brussels. The future path he will travel with the musicians, the organisation and the audience promises to make for an exciting musical journey in the coming years: ongoing discovery of the great orchestral repertoire, new and ambitious ventures into both contemporary music and the classical and early Romantic oeuvre, and building links with people around symphonic music. The complete plan for the future will be presented in the spring of 2022.



Gunther Broucke, general manager of Brussels Philharmonic:

"After a very intense and successful collaboration with Maestro Denève, I am very much looking forward to a new step toward the future of the Brussels Philharmonic under the baton of Kazushi Ono. Most of all, it is the clear and ambitious plans for the repertoire that have captivated my imagination. More about this in the spring"

OLYMPICS

To many, the Summer Olympic/Paralympic Games in Tokyo this year was more than just special, it was an extraordinary event. After being postponed for a year, the Tokyo Games were held in such an unusual state and manner, yet against all odds they ended successfully.

‘The Olympic and Paralympic Games can contribute to the rebuilding of human ties and bonds, and bring the world together again through the power of sport’

quoted by Mrs. Seiko Hashimoto, Tokyo 2020 President

With this exact same spirit, the BJA decided to approach some of the Belgian athletes who have participated in the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2020 in Tokyo and to highlight their personal stories and overwhelming experiences they earned.

SIMON GOUGNARD,

a field hockey player, won Gold at Tokyo 2020. Simon has been playing for the Belgian National Hockey team since 2012, winning for silver at Rio 2016 and for gold at the World Championship 2018 and at the European Championship 2019.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

It was important because we had very big ambitions with our team. I think organising the games was also sending a positive message to the world. A message of hope.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

It was very difficult and stressful. Knowing that we were training for 4 years towards this goal.

3. How did you feel about the “no audience” Olympics/Paralympics?

I was obviously disappointed about it but I also understand the reason and I’m thankful that the games happened. Better without audience than no games at all.

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

I think the team is going to become even better. And our objective will be another medal in Paris.

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel “was most Japanese”? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

I didn’t see anything about Japan unfortunately. Only the Olympic village. I definitely want to come back to visit. What I really liked was the respect and organisation of the Japanese people. Not easy for them to organise the games during a pandemic.

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

Very brave and respectful.

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

Definitely. Tokyo first and then travel in Japan. I love the culture and the food.

CLAIRE MICHEL,

a triathlete, named Belgian Triathlon’s Female Athlete of the Year twice in 2014 and 2015. At the Tokyo 2020, she finished in 5th for the mixed relay and 34th for the individual.



1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

I was very appreciative of all the efforts put forth by the organizing committees, international federations and host country Japan to organize these Olympic Games, therefore I didn’t mind the restrictions, but instead felt very grateful for the opportunity to participate.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

As athletes, we understood the broader crisis the world is experiencing and to put our energy towards what we could control. So, I did my best to focus on attention on being adaptable, accepting the situation and using the extra time to keep improving.

3. How did you feel about the “no audience” Olympics/Paralympics?

While it was unfortunate not to have spectators, the decision was understandable given the risk and circumstances. This simply made the role of the media even more important to broadcast to the world the unifying moments and emotions of sport.

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

Tokyo was my second Olympic games and both experiences have been special in their own way. In terms of individual performance, unfortunately the race didn’t go how I hoped and prepared for and I plan to keep working towards Paris.

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel “was most Japanese”? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

I told my family and friends about the “Casual dining hall” with traditional Japanese food, which was something I loved. There were several activities in the village from how to make origami to a shurikens game that also gave us a taste of Japanese culture despite not being able to leave the village.

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

I’ve had the pleasure to come to Japan several times over the years for racing and my impression is always very favourable: the Japanese people are very kind, polite, respectful and sports enthusiasts. Japan itself is a beautiful place, very clean with respect for nature.

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

I very much would like to return to Japan to visit when there are fewer travel restrictions. A visit of Mt. Fuji is at the top of my list, but I’d also love to come during the cherry blossom season and perhaps visit some smaller neighbouring islands as well.





EMMA PLASSCHAERT,

a 2018 World Champion in the Laser Radial class for Sailing, took part into her first Olympic this year and finished at 4th.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

It meant a lot to me to be able to participate in these games. For a long time it was so unsure on whether we would be able to go, so when the final call was made there was some massive relief. In the end the games are the main goal, so everyone happily abided by the covid rules.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

I definitely tried to focus on the process. Regardless of the games, my coach and I had objectives to obtain in our career so we focused on those. I also relied on my mental coach a lot as soon as I had some doubts, nipping them in the bud.

3. How did you feel about the “no audience” Olympics/Paralympics?

To me the 'no audience' part was maybe a bit of a gift. It meant that the whole 'tribune' that they made along the medalrace course was actually free for my teammates to cheer for me! Those places otherwise would have been sold to public, and my teammates would not have been able to see my medalrace from up close! However I would have loved my family and friends to be able to share the moment. It was very heartwarming to see them all gather back in Ostend and watch the races together!

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

After competing in the games I actually see myself as a medal contender for Paris 2024. The games have lit my fire even more, and we have a clear working plan forward to achieve these goals.

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel “was most Japanese”? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

The first thing I told my parents, was how hot the toilet seat in our hotel was! Japanese toilets really are something. Also I think the most striking thing about Japan was the number of non-English speaking, very kind volunteers!

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

I think the people were superkind. Very strict but also super helpful and cheery! I can't imagine any other country being able to organise an olympic games during covid!

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

I would love to go back to Japan and travel. I really would love to see the history around Hiroshima and Osaka, also Tokyo in spring. Climbing Mount Fuji also is on my bucket list!

KOEN NAERT,

the gold medallist at the European Championship in 2018, is a marathon athlete. He came in at 22nd place at the Rio 2016 and finished 10th place at the Tokyo 2020.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

Athletes work many years to compete on the biggest stage in sports. The Olympics are our highlights in our careers. Having the possibility to compete in the Olympics this year means a lot to us. So we're extremely thankful for this opportunity.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

With or without Olympics, we keep grinding, we keep working. I had an injury in 2020, so I saw the postponement of the Olympics as a second chance. I wanted to grab that opportunity with both hands and worked very hard. I never doubted about the fact that the Olympics could be cancelled. Because if you did, you'd have lost a lot of your best energy to put in your training.

3. How did you feel about the “no audience” Olympics/Paralympics?

I have to be honest, the marathon had a lot of spectators, so we can't complain. But even without, we were glad we could perform on the biggest stage. No doubt most part of the athletes would prefer without spectators and competing than no participation (I think, haha).

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

Seeing your colleague winning a bronze medal gives you the faith that anything is possible. It's a championship, so everyone needs to be at his/her best at that moment. We keep working hard to even perform better in Paris. It's extremely hard to achieve a medal/diploma in marathon, but I was very close and that motivates me to work even harder in the coming years. There's no way back, in less than 14 months the qualification windows open for us... so no time to waste!

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel “was most Japanese”? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

Discipline and kindness, how welcome we were and how helpful the people in Japan are. The beautiful nature and good organisation is something I'll never forget either. And the extreme weather conditions in Japanese summer, haha.

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

Only positive impressions. As mentioned above, I had the feeling we were very welcome. Everyone was very helpful and thoughtful. I only have positive thoughts when I think back about my time in Japan.

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

Yes! I've visited Tokyo when I wanted to check out the course in Tokyo back in 2019, so I don't think I would visit Tokyo again. But there are much more beautiful places to visit, I would like to go back and discover Japanese nature.



PARALYMPICS

MANON CLAEYS,

(hemiplegia) took part in the Paralympic Games this year for the first time. She won two bronze medals in para dressage - grade IV, the one in the Individual test and another one in the Freestyle test.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

For me it meant a lot. First, I was a bit scared because of the Covid. But once I saw how the Japanese people were following the rules and how good the procedures were, I felt much safer. And of course, for the sport it was amazing to compete in one of the most beautiful arenas in the world.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

I just kept training and I tried to avoid thinking so much about the fact that it could be cancelled. I was trying to keep my focus.

3. How did you feel about the “no audience” Olympics/Paralympics?

Tokyo were my first Paralympic Games so I don't know how it is with the audience but I can tell you I really missed my boyfriend and my family.

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

For sure I hope to see myself winning one or more medals in Paris. But first we need to stay with our feet on the ground and be humble and work hard every day to be the best version of ourselves in every competition.

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel “was most Japanese”? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

I told them I felt really welcome, and that I liked the fact that the organisation or the volunteers didn't see or treat us different than the Olympic athletes. And of course, the toilets. I really miss them back home because they were always so clean, and the seat was never cold.

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

Japanese people were friendly and helpful towards us. From Japan in general, I will remember that everything was very clean and well designed.

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

Yes, if I have the opportunity to go for sure. Because for me it's a very impressive city and of course I would like to see much more Tokyo than just the bus drive to the horses and back.



GRIET HOET,

with Anneleen Monsieur as a pilot, competed in paracycling, category B2 (visual impairment, tandem) both on the track and in the road events. Tokyo 2020 was her second Paralympic Games. She won a bronze medal on the 1000m time trial (track) in Tokyo.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

For me it was very special. Those Paralympic Games made history! Everybody will remember the covid games. There are some negative aspects: no public, a lot of tests, extra stress of not getting sick, ... But at the same time, we also had the positive aspects especially for the Paralympics: a lot more attention on social media/tv.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

I always believed that they would do the best they could to organize the Olympic/Paralympic Games in 2021. I also believed that 1 year extra could make me stronger! But if they had cancelled the Games, I would have been very disappointed. I'm an optimistic person, so I never let that worst case scenario take too much place into my head.

3. How did you feel about the “no audience” Olympics/Paralympics?

For me, the most important thing was that the Paralympic Games could take place. More important than my family being able to attend. I could understand the decision. Even if the Games with your friends/families would have been maybe more intense.

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

I hope that the situation is normal again. So that France can organize the Games without covid or other issues! I also hope that locals and other supporters can fill up the stadiums and give the athletes unforgettable Games.

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel “was most Japanese”? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

The volunteers!!! They were so enthusiastic and happy! They gave us the feeling that we were special. They took pictures with us, taught us some Japanese words, and gave us a real warm feeling! They try to be volunteer, friend, fan, ...

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

I think that Japan is a very beautiful country, with beautiful nature. The people are very friendly and helpful.

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

For sure! The only thing is that it's such a long flight! I haven't seen Tokyo because I was in the cycling village. So, Tokyo city is on my list. But around as well because of the nice nature we drove through. Also, the culture is very different and fascinates me.





LAURENS DEVOS,

(hemiplegia) plays para table tennis in class TT9. 5 years ago, he won the gold medal in Rio (Men's singles) and he retained his Paralympic title this year in Tokyo.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

It really meant a lot to me, and I think everyone of us was really happy that they still organized the Games, and this wouldn't have been possible without the help of all the volunteers out there in Japan. A really big thank you to them to make the Games possible to play. Of course, they were strange Games with COVID: you see everyone with masks and so and no spectators were allowed to come but I think it's normal that they put all those restrictions. It didn't happen so many times luckily in history, but I think we will speak for a long time about these Tokyo 2020 Games.

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

It was really hard for me personally to keep being motivated, because all the tournaments you were really focusing on were suddenly cancelled and there was like a black hole. I asked myself many times why I was still practicing and then I realized that the goals were not gone for me, they were only delayed for 1 year, so I found the motivation again to work day in day out to achieve my goals.

3. How did you feel about the "no audience" Olympics/Paralympics?

Totally different atmosphere, I think the Japanese audience would have been amazing. I was really looking forward to play in Tokyo because table tennis is quite popular in Japan and the atmosphere in the hall would have been incredible.

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

My dream is to defend my title in Paris 2024. Each year will be more and more difficult for me. Everyone is working hard to get that gold medal. There is more and more pressure that I put on myself because I really want to defend those titles. Also, I will try to play the Olympic Games as well. Maybe Paris will be too soon but why not giving it a try?

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel "was most Japanese"? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

I think everything let you feel that it's Japanese, the food, the buses, the environment, ... I told them that I must definitely come back to Japan for some holidays and visit the country because I really liked it. I also told them that the people are unbelievably friendly and would do everything in function of the athlete, big heads up to them!

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

Very friendly and kind, always ready to help!

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

Definitely for some holidays. Japan has also a lot of nature and I really love that. I would like to go to Okinawa, it looks really nice!

PIOTR VAN MONTAGU,

(born without arms, class ST) competed for the first time in the Paralympic Games in para archery (Men's Individual Compound - Open). He was defeated in 1/8 final by Ramezan Biabani (IRI) this time but he is a future medallist.

1. What did it mean to you to participate to this Olympics/Paralympics amid the COVID time with many restrictions?

It was a real pleasure because even in the last weeks before the event, we were not so sure they would really take place. Of course, I must say that I regret that the public could not assist to the competitions and the fact we were not able to visit (even if our main focus was of course the competition!).

2. How did you keep your motivation up when it was uncertain whether or not the Olympics/Paralympics was going to be held in Tokyo?

My qualification was not assured yet so I was lucky in a certain way because it was my main concern rather than thinking if the Games would take place or not. I am also an optimistic person, so I do not worry much in general.

3. How did you feel about the "no audience" Olympics/Paralympics?

It was a real disappointment, particularly during the ceremonies when you realize there is really no one in the stadium but I understand the decision, it was certainly not an easy one to take.

4. After winning the medals/competing, how do you see yourself in the future? What is your hope or dream for the next Olympics/Paralympics in Paris?

I want to keep giving my maximum in everything I do but I would like to be able to handle better my stress and nerves. In Paris I would like to be ambitious and who knows...

5. What part of the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics 2021 did you feel "was most Japanese"? What did you tell your families and friends first about Japan when you returned home?

What I will always remember is how smiling Japanese people are. You feel welcome everywhere you go, and that people will try to help you in case of need. I will also keep good memories of the food.

6. What were your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people during your stay?

I was impressed by Tokyo and Japan in general. On the one side you have super high buildings and towers and on the other one you can really quick go back to nature. I was also touched by the smiling and welcoming people I have met in Tokyo.

7. Would you like to go back to Tokyo or the rest of Japan when the travel restriction is lifted in the future? If so, where would you like to go and/or what would like to do?

I was lucky because I had already the chance to visit Japan before the Games and the Covid restrictions. I visited Tokyo and could go to all touristic places such as the famous Shibuya Crossing. I love the Asian culture so I would be happy to go back in the future.



news from the members

NGK CERAMICS WILL INVEST 43 MILLION IN WALLONIA

NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A., the Belgian subsidiary of the Japanese company, NGK INSULATORS, LTD. will implement its technological upgrade over the next three years, bringing cutting-edge equipment and knowledge to reinforce the economic, social, as well as ecological dimension of its activity.

The climate challenges, as well as society's awareness on what is at stake, are leading towards more restrictive standards and new technologies. Combustion engine and hybrid vehicles, which represent the majority of vehicles sold in Europe, need to keep on reducing their gas emissions. Euro 7, which is expected to be implemented in 2025, represents a new technological challenge for the European automotive industry.

In order to meet this challenge, NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. will make a substantial investment on its site in Baudour. The major equipment will be replaced with next generation equipment using more advanced technologies as far as digitalisation

opment of the region while raising the level of training and knowledge of its staff members. NGK INSULATORS, LTD. has been developing new products for the past 100 years and its 40 years+ presence in Wallonia is the promise of more opportunities to come.

- › **Social:** qualified staff members with permanent contracts will remain a top priority due to their added value to NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. Let's not forget also the temporary staff, subcontractors and suppliers. Without the investment, the future of the plant would be in jeopardy.
- › **Ecological:** NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.'s products are contributing to the society and the environment, and especially as part of the implementation of Euro 7 European automotive standard. In addition, thanks to a more sophisticated process, energy consumption for the manufacturing of our products will be reduced by more than 30 %.

Through providing innovative, high-quality products, NGK is committed to helping create a future where people can coexist with nature. We will continue to develop and provide products that support social infrastructure while preserving the environment.

Simon Vljacic, Vice President NGK Ceramics Europe

and process automation is concerned – this will allow a proper energy transition and digital revolution. The purpose is to produce higher performance HONEYCERAM ceramic substrates, used in catalytic converters, and which are essential to the implementation of this new standard.

This is basically a reshaping of the site which will materialize over the next three years and will require a total investment of roughly more than 5 billion JPY (43 million EUR). NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.'s ambition is in line with the Walloon Government's ambition for Wallonia on three aspects: economic, social and ecological.

NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A.'s ambition

- › **Economic:** by bringing this cutting-edge technology to Wallonia, NGK CERAMICS EUROPE S.A. contributes to the devel-

About NGK Insulators, LTD.

NGK is a leading company in the field of ceramics. Since its founding in 1919, its unique technology is used for many revolutionary products in more than 20 countries around the world and in business areas such as mobility, energy, IT and industry.

As one of the largest manufacturers of ceramic substrates for automotive catalytic converters, NGK is actively reducing the strain on our global environment. Furthermore, NGK's products include the energy storage system "NAS" battery, in addition to the compact, thin and high-energy-density lithium-ion rechargeable "EnerCera" battery line, vital tools for sustainable energy infrastructure.

Source: <http://www.investinwallonia.be/news-1/news-2/ngk-ceramics-will-invest-43-million-in-wallonia?lng=en>

TERUMO CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY THROUGH HEALTHCARE

Terumo Corporation, a global leader in medical technology, celebrates its 100th anniversary. The company, based in Tokyo, boasts over 25,000 associates worldwide, providing products and services to more than 160 countries and regions across the globe.

Terumo started in 1921 as a small factory making thermometers in Tokyo. At the time, there were rising needs for clinical thermometers due to the outbreak of the 1918 influenza pandemic. In Japan, thermometer supply depended heavily on imports from Europe, and consequently, thermometers were high-priced and only available to a limited number of doctors. The situation worsened when World War I broke out and trade was halted. This heightened demand for locally produced thermometers and brought together a group of ambitious doctors and engineers. Their motive was clear; to provide high-quality thermometers in ample amounts to protect the nation's health and advance the clinical system.

In 1963, Terumo launched Japan's first disposable syringe, followed by disposable hypodermic needles and blood-collection bags – all with the goal of preventing and mitigating the spread of infection caused by reusing these medical devices. In the 1980s, the company brought innovation to less-invasive therapy, such as the world's first micro-porous hollow fiber membrane oxygenator and quality vascular intervention products. In the 2000s, Terumo took on challenges in emerging fields such as vascular grafts, neurovascular therapy, and blood and cell technologies. Medical technology continued to advance throughout the decades and Terumo

continually supported the process by providing technological excellence and high-quality products, as it does today worldwide.

Looking back on the company's footprint, Shinjiro Sato, CEO of Terumo Corporation commented:

“This 100-year journey may seem like a miracle, but it is not at all accidental. Terumo exists today because our Group Mission of ‘Contributing to Society through Healthcare’ has inspired us to dream, and to build the capability to achieve each of our successive dreams in turn.”

To celebrate this milestone with all Terumo Group associates around the world,

Sato envisions:

“Terumo has indeed walked alongside the evolution of healthcare. That is why, when we look toward the next 100 years, we know that our work, our growth, and our value lie exactly in the ‘healthcare of the future’. Ultimately, our purpose is to help patients, reduce their burdens, and return them to the healthiest state possible, in a lasting way. On a global level, the Terumo mission is to contribute to solving the issues of society.”

an online ceremony was broadcasted live. The event was an opportunity to connect associates, to appreciate the past 100 years, and to build on the company's strong foundation to take on new challenges for the next 100 years. For its centennial year, the company launched a group-wide slogan, “Stride Ahead,” encompassing the company's belief that big steps forward will lead to a better future for healthcare.

Takayoshi Mimura, Chairman of the Board commented:

“In its 100 years, Terumo has also experienced economic situations that threatened its existence, as well as tough decisions, such as exiting from certain businesses. In short, Terumo grew despite all this by doing the right thing right. If we do the right thing going forward, the growth for another 100 years will follow. There is no other line of work where our efforts can so directly contribute to society, just as our group mission. Let us continue to pursue products and services that will be appreciated by our customers.”

100 years of Terumo

For more information on history, please visit www.terumo.com/100th/

<https://www.terumo-europe.com/en-emea/news/terumo-celebrates-100th-anniversary-of-contributing-to-society-through-healthcare>

news from the members

DAIKIN EUROPE N.V. UNVEILS AMBITIOUS 5-YEAR PLAN TO INVEST € 840 MILLION AND CREATE 4 000 JOBS

Daikin Europe N.V. announces Strategic Management Plan “Fusion 25” to accelerate growth in the next five years.

- › Daikin Europe N.V., with headquarters in Belgium, aims to deliver on the needs of a changing society, and to become a total solutions provider in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC-R) in all its regions (Europe, Middle East and Africa).
- › With a projected turnover of € 5.7 billion by financial year 2025, the growth pace is ambitious (in 2020 the group achieved € 3.4 billion).
- › Investments are intended to grow its R&D Centers in Europe, expand manufacturing, sales and service capacity and fund the development of the digitalization of its business model.
- › To deliver on its plans, the company aims to recruit 4 000 employees by 2025, which will bring its workforce in the region to around 16 000 heads. At least 400 of them are needed to reinforce its activities in Belgium, especially for R&D, Service and HQ functions.

Ambitious growth and contributions to society

Daikin’s Fusion 25 plan starts from a societal context in which humanity faces urgent issues, such as global warming, energy shortages and the need for healthy indoor air. These issues coincide with the digitalization of society, which fundamentally changes the way we live and do business. Daikin sees it as its responsibility to contribute to solving these societal challenges, while growing its business.

The plan identifies 3 strategic growth areas, for which substantial investments are planned:

1. Daikin carbon neutral (net zero) by 2050
2. Be a total solution provider
3. Creating healthy indoor air

Daikin carbon neutral (net zero) by 2050

Daikin takes its role to tackle carbon emissions seriously. In that context, in 2018, Daikin Industries Ltd. launched its Environmental Vision 2050. Under this programme, Daikin aims to achieve carbon neutrality in every aspect of its business, including the use and waste phase of its installed products. The first intermediate target for this, is to achieve a 30% reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2025.

For the next five years, the focus of Daikin Europe N.V. is to contribute to the global plan with the expansion of its heat pump business, developing energy-saving air conditioning and refrigeration equipment with lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) and/or natural refrigerants, as well as establishing a circular business model for refrigerants.

To innovate in hydronic heat pump and refrigeration technology, Daikin decided to establish its global R&D Center in Ghent in Belgium and drastically expand its capabilities there.

HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY

- › Heat pumps play a crucial role in Daikin’s global CO₂ reduction plan. Daikin will globally promote the uptake of heat pump technology to reduce carbon emissions.
- › Heat pumps in Europe contribute to the EU Green Deal decarbonization strategy for the heating sector. For each kWh heating the carbon impact of a heat pump is half the impact of a high efficiency gas boiler. And when run on renewable electricity, the carbon footprint of a heat pump drops even further, unlike combustion heating.
- › As a result of the favourable market conditions and its long-standing expertise in heat pumps, Daikin intends to more than double its heating business by 2025. All heat pumps sold in Europe are developed and produced in

Europe, in the Daikin factories in Germany, Belgium and Czech Republic.

REFRIGERANT INITIATIVES

- › The transition to circular business models is another spearpoint in the EU Green Deal. Daikin Europe has already established a program for the circular use of refrigerants used in large commercial air conditioning equipment, which it calls LP by Daikin. The plan is to extend to more types of products and refrigerants.
- › In view of developing a sustainable business line that covers the total cold chain, the company will further expand its applied and refrigeration product line up that combines energy-savings with low GWP and natural refrigerants.

Mr Patrick Crombez,

General Manager Heating Business:

“The way we are heating our buildings in Europe is a big source of carbon emissions, and we are running out of time to decarbonize in this domain. This decade is crucial to take action, and the EU leads the way with its Green Deal targets to reduce carbon emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Our strategic plan fully supports this, and includes major investments for heat pump R&D and production capacity increase in Europe. We aim to drive truly sustainable growth in the heating business.”

Be a total solution provider**CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE**

In the coming years Daikin intends to expand value added services based on equipment connectivity such as monitoring of indoor CO₂ levels, energy con-

news from the members

Mr Tsubouchi,
President of the Daikin Europe

Group concludes:

“We aim to be an organization where diverse people from all over the world can play an active role and create new value for local businesses, customers and society in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We are in a new era, and we are reinventing ourselves to offer innovations and tailor-made solutions across all Daikin products and business segments. I am confident that, together with our loyal partners and open collaboration with organizations that share our ambitions for society, we will realize our goals for our Fusion 25.”

sumption and predictive maintenance. In the new eco-system of digitally connected professionals, installers and end-users, Daikin’s focus is to deliver convenience for all, making it easy to buy, install, use and service its systems. Part of the € 840 million investment will go to the development of a customer engagement platform.

Furthermore, to reach out to its residential end-users, and promote understanding of its low carbon and energy-saving solutions, the group will open interactive showrooms in major European cities.

TOTAL SOLUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC CUSTOMER NEEDS

Daikin intends to leverage its broad portfolio and technological know-how in all areas of its heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration business to bring solutions that satisfy diverse customer needs, not in the least helping customers to reduce their own CO₂ emissions. The company will drastically increase its sales and service capabilities through recruitments, partnerships and external growth.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS SEGMENT

- › Provide maintenance, repair, retrofit and replacement solutions, which can include system design and engineering services for its own products, or combined with external equipment and controls.
- › Provide consultancy services for optimal system design and engineering in support of the most demanding green building, acoustics and design standards.
- › Refrigerated supply chain: Focus in

particular on the food cold chain from place of production to consumption (“Farm to Fork”). Contribute to reducing food loss and ensuring food safety by utilizing data and monitoring. Furthermore, expand the offer of specific solutions for the medical cold chain.

Creating healthy indoor air

The Daikin group globally has a complete line-up of ventilation and air purification equipment. Earlier this year Daikin’s air purifiers were tested by the renowned Institut Pasteur de Lille and confirmed to be highly efficient in eliminating respiratory viruses such as Covid-19 and the common flu. Daikin Europe aims to become the region’s leading player in the ventilation and air purification market.

For more information, please visit: www.daikin.eu

Source: https://www.daikin.eu/en_us/press-releases/daikin-europe-nv-unveils-ambitious-5-year-plan-to-invest-840-million-and-create-4000-jobs.html?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=Daikin+Europe



TAKEDA – INAUGURATION OF A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART PRODUCTION FACILITY IN LESSINES

31 August 2021, Takeda inaugurated a new state-of-the-art production facility at its Lessines site in Belgium for the manufacturing of treatments for people with rare and complex chronic diseases. The Lessines manufacturing site’s mission is to serve patients with rare diseases and other specialized

conditions. It is a Centre of Excellence for the purification of immunoglobulins, with filling and packaging capacity for plasma-derived therapies and packaging capacity for hematology products that reach patients in more than 80 countries.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRoV1_r9gWo

news from the members

PORT OF ANTWERP CONTINUES TO GROW AND CONSOLIDATES STRONG POSITION IN REEFER MARKET: CONTAINER TRAFFIC ENJOYS FURTHER GROWTH

After nine months, Port of Antwerp records a total throughput of 179.1 million tonnes, a rise of 4.8% compared to last year and the same level as 2019. Despite the still persevering operational challenges, all goods flows are recording growth. The reefer segment is also continuing to grow.

Growth in all segments

Container traffic continues to enjoy continuous growth, increasing 2.3% in tonnes (105.4m tonnes) and 2.8% in TEUs (9,100,620 TEUs) after nine months compared to 2020. Conventional breakbulk has grown by 62.7%, primarily due to the strong growth in steel trade (+65.9%). September was the best month of the year for the conventional breakbulk segment and even the best month since June 2011. RoRo is up 18.2% compared to the same period in 2020. In addition to the increased handling of commercial vehicles, wood and building materials are also notable risers.

Dry bulk throughput is up by 9.3%. The growth in fertilizers (+25%) and scrap (+13.5%) play a significant role in this regard. Despite a sharp drop in the handling of crude oil (-68.5%), the handling of liquid bulk increased by 2.2% thanks to the strong performance in the chemicals segment, which grew by 9.8% and of oil derivatives which did 4% better than the previous year, mainly due to an increase in non-fuel related derivatives and energy gases.

Seagoing vessels

In the period January-September, 10,608 seagoing vessels called at Antwerp, representing a rise of 3.6% compared to the same period in 2020.

Sustained growth figures for reefers

The number of reefer containers grew by 3.6% compared with the same period last year. Reefer containers contain fresh products including fruit, vegetables, meat and fish, pharmaceutical products and chemicals. Last year, the port already exceeded the worldwide growth in the reefer market with a total volume of 1 million TEU of reefer containers. This trend is clearly continuing, and with it the port of Antwerp is consolidating its role as an important player in the reefer segment.

Jacques Vandermeiren, CEO Port of Antwerp:

"Our ambition is to be the pre-eminent perishables port in Europe. Last year, despite the difficult circumstances, we already notched up excellent growth in the reefer segment, thanks to our strengths in terms of location and service. This year, we are reaffirming and strengthening our market position.

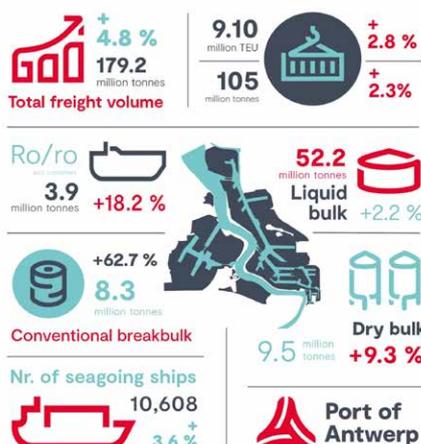
The growth figures, for all segments, are proof that our resilience allows us to turn challenges into opportunities."

Annick De Ridder, port alderwoman:

"Despite continuing operational challenges such as disrupted container liner shipping, pressure on the terminals due to the pandemic and delays, we continue to record growth in all segments. What is more, September was an exceptionally good month for breakbulk, reflecting the hard work of all employees. These figures once again confirm the resilience of our port and the flexibility of everyone who ensures that our port continues to operate."

Results Port of Antwerp

January - September 2021



The increased volume of reefer containers in Antwerp is partly due to increased demand. European consumers are attaching increasing importance to health and healthy food, and the pandemic has only reinforced and accelerated this trend. On the other hand, the growth is due to the strong maritime position in the shipping areas of Latin America, Africa and the United States, and with countries such as China and Singapore. In addition, the port offers specialised terminals, coldstores and logistics service providers with a special focus on reefer cargo.

Source: <https://newsroom.portofantwerp.com/port-of-antwerp-continues-to-grow-and-consolidates-strong-position-in-reefer-market#>



PHOTO EXHIBITION “THE OTHER JAPAN” AT THE VANDENHOVE PAVILJOEN, GHEENT UNIVERSITY

By Marlies Holvoet and Andreas Niehaus of Ghent University

Japan in a peep box: a perfect miniature world in which the past is preserved and ever unchanging. A world that presents itself to the beholder as a harmonious natural landscape of Fuji-san, temples and geisha. But there is also another image appearing in the peep box: one of modernity, composed of topics as high technology, mega-cities, emotional indifference, social isolation, suicide, sexual perversion, etc. While the distortion of the well-preserved harmonious image of a traditional Japan is experienced as fracture and rupture, it also confirms and feeds a meta-stereotype: Japan is different and – in its difference – cannot be understood by ‘the others’.

The exhibition “The Other Japan” offered the broader public a more nuanced image of Japan than the stereotypical pictures created and reproduced by mass media, TV, films, or the tourist industry. Starting from the question, how students from the Japanese Studies program - who spent up to 1.5 years on exchange in the BA and MA program - perceive Japan, and what images they would choose to portray a “different” or “other” Japan. Some photographers interpreted “the other Japan” as breaking away from the stereotypical imagery of Japan. They showed Mount Fuji, kimono, cherry blossoms, and sushi, but with a humorous nod to the clichés. Others construed “the other Japan” as the “real” Japan. That is, the reality of the country they were confronted with, when they first set foot on Japanese soil and the pristine wonderland they had fantasized about for (sometimes many) years turned out to be different from what they imagined: from electrical wiring contortions and unattractive concrete buildings, to the use of plastic water bottles in the streets to keep stray cats at bay. The student-photographers wandered to all corners of the country. Their photos show the everyday life they encountered in various cities, suburbs and countryside villages, including the mountain views from hiking trips – a pastime many of them seem to have enjoyed during their stay. Besides these everyday images of Japan, some series of photos added even deeper – hidden – layers to the concept of “the other Japan”. These images spoke of topics such as the LGBT community, of citizen protest movements in Okinawa, of depopulation and desolation in rural areas in Japan.

All of these snapshots, portraits, landscapes and images were



brought together in this exhibition. From album-sized photographs to large scale wall installations, visitors were challenged to take a step back or look closer in order to engage with a multitude of impressions of Japan.

The exhibition was organized by the Institute of Japanese studies, under the curatorship of Marlies Holvoet, Andreas Niehaus, and Peter H. Waterschoot and opened on 24 August by H.E. Ambassador Shimokawa and Ghent Mayor Mathias De Clercq at the Vandenhove Pavillion in Ghent. The exhibition, which attracted around 450 visitors during a period of 10 days, was included into the program of the celebrations of 50 years’ sister city relations between Ghent and Kanazawa, as well as the 16th International Conference of the Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS), which had been awarded to Ghent University. For this worldwide largest conference for Japanese studies, the organizers also provided an online exhibition that can still be visited via: www.theotherjapan.ugent.be.



IMMIGRATION PROCESS FOR NON-EU NATIONALS COMING TO BELGIUM

By Wim Eynatten, BJA Legal & Tax Committee Chair, Partner Deloitte and Matthias Lommers, Member of BJA Legal & Tax Committee, Senior Director Deloitte

The Legal & Tax Committee is pleased to announce some recent positive developments around the immigration process for non-EU nationals coming to Belgium.



These positive developments are for a part the result of the strong connection and impact BJA's Legal & Tax Committee has developed together with the Investment Committee over the past years with the different government stakeholders, moving the Federal & Regional

governments to transform the Belgian immigration system into a transparent, modern and quick system that can handle the challenges of today's international mobility landscape. The Legal & Tax Committee will continue to monitor the developments on this topic.

- › The introduction of the **online immigration portal**, which ensures a quick and transparent way of managing immigration applications towards Belgium, decreasing the red tape that used to characterize the immigration process until now.
- › The **decrease of the overall processing timeline** for single permit applications for non-EU nationals (although regional differences are still noticeable), as such improving the predictability of the process and largely benefitting the employee experience further to a move to Belgium.
- › The upcoming **introduction of the ICT permit**, expected in November 2021, helping to establish Belgium as a gateway to Europe by virtue of the scope of this ICT permit, which allows employment in different EU countries based on one permit only.

The advertisement features a large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a lightning bolt, rendered in shades of blue and yellow. The background is a light blue gradient. The Atelerix logo, consisting of a lightning bolt inside a circle, is positioned above the company name. Below the logo, the text 'Brand Research & Strategy', 'Thrive in an ever-changing market!', and 'Ready to evolve your brand?' is displayed. Further down, the services 'Consulting', 'Workshops', and 'Training' are listed in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website 'Atelerix.be/bja' is provided. The word 'ADVERTISEMENT' is written vertically on the left side of the ad.

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Founded in 1938 in Belgium, Scabal is an international brand, recognized for exquisite woven fabrics and the manufacture of exceptional tailor-made garments. The majority of the 5000 fabrics within the collections are woven from the finest materials in the Scabal Mill in England.

During a Scabal tailoring experience, our in-store specialists will guide clients through every aspect of designing and customizing their outfit. From the choice of fabric, lining and buttons, through to, the choice of pockets and the addition of personal embroidery, every element is chosen by the client to create a unique garment.

Japan is very important for Scabal. Our partnership with the local company Itoshu was one of the first partnerships made outside Europe, and this year we celebrated the Tokyo Olympics by creating the formal outfits for the Belgium team.

Being associated with the BJA is an opportunity for us to continue our good relationship.



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