

# Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce ASBL - VZW



Number 67 - June 2005

## Trade Flows & Cultural News

### A year to remember

by Mrs l'Hoost, Deputy Director General, Belgian Agency for Foreign Trade

2005 will, in many respects, be a year to remember as propitious to Belgian-Japanese relations.

The first important element that can be underlined is the signing of the bilateral social security agreement between Belgium and Japan. Mr Karel De Gucht, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and HE Ambassador Shohei Naito signed the agreement on 23 February at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels. Both the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce and Nihonjinkai had been lobbying actively for years in favour of the agreement, and have undoubtedly been instrumental in its relatively rapid conclusion.

A second major event is the Belgian participation in the 2005 World Exposition currently taking place in Aichi. 121 countries (including JAPAN) and 4 international organisations (including UN) are participating in the Exposition, which has already attracted 2.235.489 visitors since its opening on 25 March. For six months, our country has the opportunity to promote its image and products in Japan via the Belgian Pavilion, jointly realised by the federal government and by the Regions. Furthermore, as the Belgian National Day at the Expo falls on 14 June, it has been decided to organise an economic mission in June in the coinciding period.

The Belgian economic mission to Japan, presided over by His Royal Highness Prince Philippe, will be taking place from 11 to 18 June 2005. The mission is organised jointly by the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency and by the regional institutions for foreign trade (AWEX, Brussels Export and Flanders Investment and Trade). HE Mr Marc Verwilghen, federal Minister for Economy, Energy, Foreign Trade and Science Policy, will also join the mission. Moreover, three regional Ministers have also confirmed their participation: Mr Jean-Claude Van Cauwenberghe, Minister-President of the Walloon Region; Mr Jean-Claude Marcourt, Walloon Minister for Economy and Employment, and

Mrs Marie-Dominique Simonet, Walloon Minister for Research, New Technology and External Relations. About 100 businessmen will take part in the mission, representing various sectors of the Belgian economy. The target sectors of are: automotive, environment and biotechnology, chemicals, harbour and lifestyle.

As the World Exposition is the focal point of the mission, most of the programme is organised in Nagoya, where the delegation will be staying from 12 to 15 June.

On 13 June, the three Regions are co-organising a seminar on sustainable development. On the initiative of AWEX, a visit will be organised to AISINAW, leading manufacturer of automatic transmissions and one of the major Japanese investors in the Walloon Region.

On 14 June, Belgian National Day at Aichi, will follow the classic scenario of national days foreseen by the organisers of the Expo. The day will start with an official ceremony in the Expo Dome, followed by pavilion visits and by a reception at the Belgian pavilion.

On 15 June, the focus will be on the automotive, with a visit to the headquarters of Toyota Motor Corporation, where the Belgian delegation will be welcomed by the top management. Matchmaking and B to B meetings will be organised between the Procurement and Purchase Division of Toyota and Belgian businessmen.

16 and 17 June will be spent in Tokyo, where the programme will include political meetings, several seminars, and PR actions such as a visit to Marcolini and Del Rey shops in Ginza. All in all, a very intensive programme is being offered to the delegation. There is no doubt the mission will provide ample occasion to Belgian businessmen to further develop their business in Japan, and hence strengthen the ties between our two countries.



Mrs l'Hoost,  
Deputy Director General,  
Belgian Agency for Foreign Trade

### In this issue

- 1 Editorial: Mrs l'Hoost
- 2 'Harmony of Cherry Blossoms' visit
- 3 Exclusive visit to Toyota Valenciennes
- 4 Opera 'Julie', conducted by Mr Kazushi Ono
- 5 Annual General Assembly
- 6 Business Potential in Reviving Japanese Economy
- 7 News from the Members
- 8-9 Facts and Figures on Japan Regional focus: Aichi
- 9 Youth Committee News
- 10-11 EU-Japan Relations
- 12-13 Focus on Belgium
- 14-17 Agreement on Social Security
- 18-20 The Investment Committee: Committee Presentation & Member CV
- 21 Personalia and sponsors
- 22-24 Advertisements: Olympus, Nikon, Ycomm

## 'Harmony of Cherry blossoms, bridging the people of the world' visit

19 April - Cultural & Information Center of the Japanese Embassy of Belgium

The Cultural Committee of the BJA organized on the 19th of April, an exclusive visit to the Exhibition of 'Sakura' paintings by Mrs Kishida Natsuko in the framework of the 2005 EU-Japan People-to-People Exchange, in presence of the artist.

After a small introduction by Mr Sumimoto, Director of the Cultural and Information Center of the Japanese Embassy, and a welcome word by Dr Randerson, BJA Cultural Committee Member, Mrs Kishida shared her tales of nature and explained the reasons why she is so moved by nature, especially by the Cherry trees and its blossoms. She experiences the Sakura trees as if they have the same feelings as humans. She mentions the four seasons of the Sakura to be the same as one life of a human.

The painter presented her series of 'Trees in the forest' and 'Portraits of

two Reiko with apple' by giving explanations about the paintings and the symbols behind it.

After the presentation, the audience enjoyed the paintings and the cocktails, being amazed by the beautiful creations of Mrs Kishida.



From left to right: Mr Gobron, Mrs Kishida, Artist, Mr Sumimoto, Director of the Cultural and Information Centre of the Embassy of Japan and Mr le Hodey, Executive Vice President of Spector Photo Group and Vice-President of the BJA, Dr Randerson, Mrs Termote and Mrs Garcia Riveros, Tax consultants of Deloitte, surrounded by the beauty of blossoming cherry trees.



Mr and Mrs Rouel-Imada enjoying the cocktail and the nice mood of the exhibition.



BJA members listening attentively to the speech of Mrs Kishida. From left to right: Professor Thele, Mr Van Overstraeten, Mrs Tsumura, Mrs Sonon, Mrs Van Waes, Baron Boels and Mr Martens.



Mr Uchikawa, Senior Vice President of Toyota Motor Europe and Mr Ikenaga, President & Managing Director of Kaneka Belgium, flanked the BJA ladies Mrs Matsumoto and Mrs Kellens.



From left to right: Baron Boels, Mr. Lievemont, Director of Aon Belgium and Mr Sumimoto, organising members of the BJA Cultural Committee, sharing ideas for the next events.

# Exclusive visit to Toyota Valenciennes

29 March - Valenciennes



Mr Boeyens of Deloitte, Mr Janssen of Toyota Belgium, and Mr Mampaey of Blondé anxiously await the visit inside the factory of Toyota.

On Tuesday, 29 March, the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure in inviting the Members of the Board and the Sponsor Members of BJA to the plant of Toyota Motor Manufacturing France, located in Valenciennes, France. The group of 30 members were welcomed by Mr Didier Leroy, Vice President of TMMF, who gave us a thorough presentation on one of the most advanced environmental friendly plants Toyota has inaugurated in 2001. Mr Nicolas Fayol, Public Relations Manager, kindly guided the group inside the factory with full explanations. Thanks to a generous support by Mr Tadashi Arashima, CEO and President of TMME, this exclusive visit was a huge success and the participants surely enjoyed observing how a piece of aluminum being reborn to a beautiful car, Yaris.



Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten of Linklaters De Bandt and Mr Edward De Beukelaer of H. De Beukelaer & Co enjoy the fresh air after the two hours trip from Brussels by coach.



The participants enthusiastically listen to the presentation before the actual visit of the factory.



Mr Didier Leroy, Vice President of TMMF, gives welcome words to the participants, followed by a thorough presentation on the Toyota plant.



The members of BJA and Toyota join for a group photo before the guided tour inside the factory.

## Advertising rates

4 issues  
(March, June, September,  
December)

B&W	1 page	€ 1.500,00
	1/2 page	€ 800,00
Colour	1 page	€ 3.000,00
	1/2 page	€ 1.600,00

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# ‘Julie’



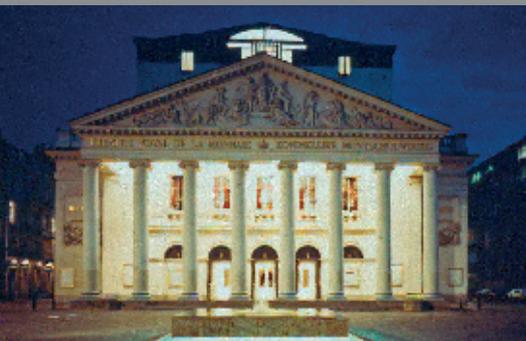
Mr Kazushi Ono brought the audience to a different world filled with beautiful music.

Opera 'Julie',  
conducted by Mr Kazushi Ono  
17 March 2005

On Thursday 17 March the Cultural Committee of Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure of inviting the members of BJA and friends to the Opera ‘Julie’, conducted by Mr Kazushi Ono, at La Monnaie in Brussels. About 25 participants joined to see this intimist opera, which the Belgian composer Philippe Boesmans drew inspiration from Strindberg’s masterly play in which three characters are played off against one another. A Cocktail after the Opera was kindly offered by La Monnaie, during which Mr Bernard Focroulle, Director General of La Monnaie, expressed a few words of welcome to the participants. Mr Ono, who conducted the opera, also honoured us with his presence to this cocktail. While savouring exquisite food arranged by La Monnaie, the participants appreciated this unique opportunity to meet with the much talented Mr Ono.



 De Munt  
La Monnaie



From left to right: Mrs Sato of ING together with her husband, Mr Hayashi of Nippon Shokubai and Mr and Mrs Genang of Agena, discussing the importance of classical music.

Mr Matsuda of Koyo Steering Europe and his lovely wife enjoyed a conversation with the masterly conductor Mr Ono.

# Annual General Assembly of the BJA

16 March - Hotel Metropole, Brussels



From left to right: Mr Van Nijlen, Managing Director of the Japan Consulting Service Tokyo Office, enjoyed the opportunity to attend the AGM while being in Belgium for a couple of days. He joined Mr. De Beukelaer, President of H. De Beukelaer & Co. and Mr Benoit, Managing Director of YCOMM.



From right to left: Members of the Board reporting: BJA Director Mr Nicolas Sepulchre, BJA President Mr Luc Willame and BJA Vice-President Mr Daniel Thielemans.



HE Ambassador Naito, Japanese Ambassador to Belgium, enjoyed the company of HE Honorary Ambassador Nothomb, who spent over 10 years in Japan.



The members were delighted with the many illustrations Professor Vande Walle showed in preview of the publication of his new book.



On 16 March, an audience of approximately 40 members attended the BJA General Assembly under Mr Luc Willame's presidency, held at the luxurious Hotel Metropole.

Mr Daniel Thielemans, Managing Director Corporate Banking Fortis Bank and Vice-President of BJA, reported on the financial results of 2004, followed by Mrs Anja Kellens, Executive Director, who presented the 2005 budget. Mr Nicholas Sepulchre, Chairman of the Membership Committee, delivered a complete 2004 report of the Membership Situation, with the objectives of the Committee for 2005. Mr Thielemans, as Chairman of the Business Committee gave then his report on the activities of the Business Committee.

The Cultural Committee Report and Youth Committee Report 2004 were presented as well that evening. Lastly, Mr Willame announced the Statutory Nominations and proposed the new Board of Directors. Mr Willame concluded the meeting by giving the confirmation that the changes brought to the BJA Articles of Association in 2003 (approved and voted in 2003), were in ruling with the new ASBL legislation.

Before proceeding to the cocktails, the members listened to the presentation made by Professor Vande Walle on the imminent publication of the book 'Japan & Belgium: Four centuries of exchange'.

In the mean time the book has been published, as announced on page 7.



# Business Potential in Reviving Japanese Economy

Seminar of JETRO, EU-Japan Center and the BJA, 28 February

The recovering Japanese economy is offering growing business opportunities. The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce (BJA) and the EU-Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation used this excellent occasion to invite interested parties to this seminar in which Belgian companies presented their successful experience in Japan.

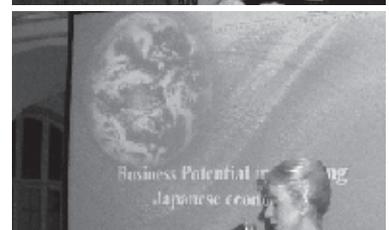
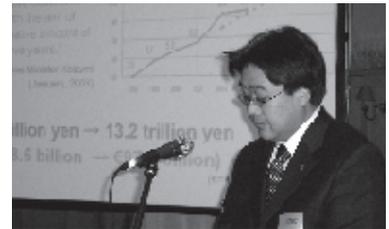
HE Ambassador Shohei Naito opened the seminar by welcoming the participants. After the presentation about the Belgian economic mission to Japan by Mrs L'Hoost of the Belgian Agency for Foreign Trade, Mr Watanabe of JETRO, explained how his organization could support companies in their business in Japan. Mr Aida of Japanese Initiative Ltd set out the business potential in Japan.

Mr Raimond of CORIS BioConcept began the second part of the seminar followed by Mr Degroux of FRISK International. The participants enjoyed the presentation

by Mr Van Der Stede of Hemmis. The case of IEE was clearly advocated by Mr von Habsburg-Lothringen. Finally Mr Vecchio defined the experience of LMS International.

During the following panel discussion coordinated by Professor Vanoverbeke of the KUL, the keys to open the market were identified and participants took the opportunity to raise many questions to the speakers.

A networking cocktail, appreciated by the 120 participants closed the evening.



Pertinent questions were asked to the experienced businessmen. From left to right: Prof Vanoverbeke, Associate Professor of KUL, Mr Aida, Managing Director of Japanese Initiative and Mr Degroux, Managing Director of Frisk.

More than 120 participants listened carefully to the speakers and the panel.



From left to right: Mr Jordan, Director Asia of Walloon Exportation and Foreign Investment Agency, Mr Ikeda, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Mr Seghers of Heijmans and Mr Deruytter, Manager Expatriates of ING, sharing stories concerning investments in Japan.

From left to right: The networking cocktail brought together Mr Sleurs, Sales & Marketing BeNeLux Manager of ANA, Mrs Wesseldijk, Managing Director of Kaizen Consultancy, Mr Kuratomi, Chief Representative of the Development Bank of Japan, Mr ter Woort, General Manager of Saraya Europe, and Mr Watanabe, Director-General of JETRO.

## News from the Members

### Japanese art exhibition held at Boyden Executive Search on 24 February

In line with the EU-Japan year 2005, people-to-people exchanges, Boyden executive search, BJA company member, organized a business-to-business event where Presidents and Managing Directors from both EU and Japanese companies were invited to meet and socialize. At this occasion, a beautiful Japanese art collection was exposed in the Boyden offices and sushi were served. This event, in presence of Mr Luc Willame, President of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce and Senior Executive Vice President & President of Asahi Glass Co. (c/o Glaverbel), was not only a great success in terms of socialising, but also in terms of initiating people to the Japanese culture and ancient habits. Boyden consultant, Mr Arie Vos gave a guided tour towards Edo (1603-1868) and Meiji (1868-1912) period works of art. The exhibition covered a large part of Japanese artefacts such as sagemono and netsuke, tansu, shippo, yakimono, kakemono, ukiyo-e, chadogou etc... all put at the disposal of Boyden by the galleries Kagu & Kitsune.

### 'Intolérance Zéro, 42 ans de diplomatie', by Ambassador Patrick Nothomb

In 'Intolerance Zero, 42 years of diplomacy', published by Editions Racine, Ambassador Patrick Nothomb relates the main aspects of his career in a dialogue with his old-time friend Jean-Marie Mersch, a former prominent literary reviewer at the Belgian Radio and Television. Patrick Nothomb has been successively posted in Kinshasa, Kisangani (where he was taken as hostage by simba rebels), Montreal, Osaka (where he was Consul general from 1968 to 1972); he was in 1972 the first Belgian diplomat posted in the People's Republic of China. After serving four years in the United Nations in New York, he became Ambassador to Bangladesh and Myanmar in 1978, Director of the Asian Desk at the Belgian Foreign Ministry in 1980, Ambassador to Thailand and Laos in 1985, Ambassador to Japan from 1988 to 1997; and finally Ambassador to Italy, San Marino, Malta and Albania from 1998 to 2001. Ambassador Nothomb spent the two thirds of his career in Asia or working for Asia in Brussels and one third in Japan. He met a lot of important and colourful people and did his best to understand the culture of the countries where he was assigned. Unquestionably, Japan has been – and remains – his 'second motherland'. During his 13 years in Japan, he was involved in a lot of economic and trade negotiations, made a huge lot of friends, visited all the corners of the country and became an amateur Nô singer of the Kanze-school. His memoirs can therefore be

of special interest for the members of the BJA to which Patrick Nothomb belongs. The book can be bought at the main bookstores at the price of EUR 22,45. It can also be ordered directly to Patrick Nothomb by transferring EUR 25 to his account number 210-0622445-48, with the mention 'Intolerance Zero' and the sender's name and address. Patrick Nothomb will mail to the latter a signed copy of the book by return.

### Japan & Belgium: Four centuries of exchange

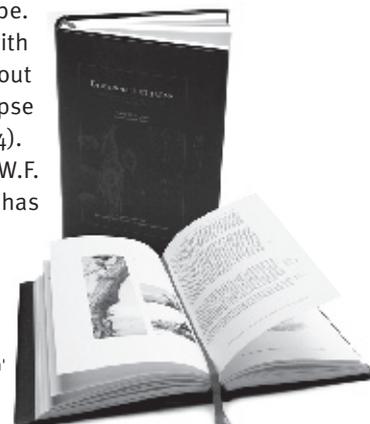
The book 'Japan & Belgium: Four centuries of exchange' which featured in the Editorial by Professor Vande Walle in our March Issue of the Trade Flows and Cultural News, has been published by the Commissioners-General of the Belgian Government at the Universal Expo at Aichi 2005, as part of the program of the Belgian Pavilion at the exposition. It can be obtained through the offices of the Commissionariat-General, North Gate III, Bd du Roi Albert II, 16, 1000 Bruxelles, e-mail: info@expoaichi2005.be

### Oskar D: 10 years of creative services!

This year, Oskar D creative services, is celebrating its tenth year of existence. Oskar D is specialised in the diversification of creative services such as graphic-, web-, and packaging design, with a view to integrated communication. They work for multinationals as well as SME's. Regular clients include Kuwait Petroleum Northwest Europe, Duvel Moortgat and Konishi. The company is run by Gert Junes and Dirk De haene, member of the Editorial Committee. A unique service of Oskar D's is to provide 'Japanised' creative services, both for web and print. End of last year, they launched the new web site of the Flemish artist Panamarenko: [www.panamarenko.be](http://www.panamarenko.be). 'Panamarenko himself was very pleased with his web site. When he first saw it, he burst out laughing.' (Hans Willemsse of 'De Antwerpse Luchtschipbouw' in De Morgen, 20-11-2004). The book 'Dodonaeus in Japan' by Prof W.F. Vande Walle and designed by Oskar D, has been selected for the exhibition 'De Ongekroonde Jaren' by the 'Plantin Society, Institute of Printing and Graphic Arts' to be held from 4 May to 30 June in the KBC tower, Antwerp. 'Dodonaeus in Japan'



[www.panamarenko.be](http://www.panamarenko.be)



# Facts and Figures on Japan

## Regional focus: Aichi



### Aichi Prefecture – Home of Japan’s Samurai spirit now Japan’s industrial heartland

by Mr Okamoto,  
Member of the Editorial Committee

Thanks to the 2005 World Exposition, the name Aichi is now known throughout the world. The Belgian Pavilion in Aichi, Japan — site of the Exposition — featured in our September 2004 edition of Trade Flow. Aichi Prefecture, with Nagoya City as its Capital, is one of Japan’s three most important metropolitan areas along with Tokyo and Osaka. But rest assured, it has much more to offer than just the Exposition.

Aichi is located in central Japan. It faces the Pacific Ocean, resulting in many attractive natural features such as the Ise Bay and the Mikawa Gulf. Aichi Prefecture covers a total of 5,154km<sup>2</sup> or about 1.4% of the country’s total land mass. It ranks 28th in terms of the size out of the 47 prefectures in Japan. The population is 7.2 million, following only Tokyo, Osaka, and Kanagawa prefectures. The Pacific Current passing along the coast creates a generally mild climate in this part of the country. The combination of favorable location and excellent climate has helped Aichi establish and maintains its current position in the nation’s industry.

Aichi is Japan’s leading producer of manufactured products. It is also home of many of the world’s top brand names. Brother, Denso, Makita, Noritake, Toyota, and Yamazaki Mazak are just a few that readily come to mind. Aichi is teeming with the fruits of the unflagging hard work and intelligence of pioneers who strove for a better future. There is an enduring passion for making excellent products. The industrial output of Aichi was JPY 34.5 trillion or EUR 252 billion in 2002. Aichi has ranked number one as Japan’s top industrial center every year since 1977.

To highlight just a couple of areas, Aichi accounts for one third of Japan’s aerospace industry output. Fuji Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries together provide most of the muscle and leadership in this fast-moving field. The precision production of key parts of the HII rocket is carried out in Aichi. Then there is the automotive industry. New automobile technologies seem to be accelerating up to warp speed. Aichi is home to world-famous Toyota and its enormous production base. This has attracted many of the firms developing the next-generation of automotive electronics.

Aichi is also the home of fine ceramics, mechatronics, and traditional industries such as china and porcelain,

roof tiles, and silk and cotton textiles. The well-balanced structure of its industrial activities is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it is also ranked Number 3 in commercial sales and Number 5 in agricultural output.

The Aichi region has a rich history. Until the mid-7th century, it was comprised of three distinct independent countries, namely Owari, Mikawa, and Ho. Then Owari and Ho were united into a single entity. Owari and Mikawa are particularly well known in Japan as the home of the Samurai Spirit, which gave birth to the leaders who unified the nation. From 1467 to 1568, medieval Japan went through a turbulent period of perpetual civil war. The period, later called the “Sengoku Jidai or Warring States Period”, was the time of Gekokujo (the overturning of those on top by those below). Powerful local lords displaced the military governors appointed by the Muromachi Shogunate and fought each other for hegemony. It is this period of Japanese history that is depicted in such classic Japanese films as Mizoguchi’s “Ugetsu Monogatari”, Kurosawa’s “The Seven Samurai,” and “Kagemusha (‘The Shadow Warrior’)” and many others. This period produced great leaders. Owari produced Nobunaga Oda and Hideyoshi Toyotomi, while Mikawa gave Japan Ieyasu Tokugawa. All three were born either as a minor local chieftain or son of a peasant. The work to unify country was started by Nobunaga, who valued not only military power, but also the power of information and free commerce. Hideyoshi succeeded Nobunaga added his own strategy to develop the nation centered on its economy. Ieyasu made the most of what was passed to him from his predecessors. In 1603, he founded a long-lasting and stable government system that led to Japan’s early modern times. It was known as the Shogunate-and-Domain System (or “Baku-Han Taisei”), and lasted until 1867.

Shoguns and Samurais have faded away in the wave of history, but the spirit of the people in the region survived and still sending out the power to the rest of the country and the world. Aichi Prefecture has initiated incentives for promoting and attracting business into the region. These include the Real Estate Subdivision Long-term Install Payment System, the Land Lease System and other attractive measures for various types of companies. This includes companies specializing in advanced technologies and research capabilities. Some of the non-Japanese corporations that have major operations in Aichi include Daimler Chrysler Japan Co., Ltd., Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Inc., PPG Japan Ltd., and Volkswagen Group Japan KK.

Aichi

## Youth Committee news

Aichi does not simply rely on its history and its achievements accomplished thus far. Aichi realizes that globalization requires not only the exchange of people and goods but also information on a world-wide scale. Its various regions excel in just such an exchange and they intend to see to it that this continues to develop. Aichi is now putting all possible effort into the rapid realization of several major projects intended to move Aichi into the new 21st century. In addition to the World EXPO, Central Japan International Airport commenced its operation in February 2005. The new airport serves as an international hub airport capable of around-the-clock service with 3,500-meter runway.

Two 4,000 meter-runways are also planned. The new Tomei Meishin Expressway will be a six-lane, 500-kilometer highway linking Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kobe. The Linear Chuo Shinkansen Project aims to realize this plan through development of the Superconductive Magnetically Levitated Train connecting Tokyo and Osaka by way of Nagoya in approximately one hour at a speed of 500km/h.

Aichi, aims to become a vital center of global exchange. They welcome the establishment of new enterprises, both domestic and from abroad and the addition of their economic operations into the prefecture.

### Celebrating Spring with the BJA YCOM

On 19 March we gathered at the restaurant 'Le Grand Café' in Brussels. The most interesting part of this activity was that there were many people from different backgrounds, all with a profound interest in Japan, in other words: it was a nice mix of different cultures and opinions.

After enjoying a good meal and a nice chat we continued our conversations at an outside café. This was an excellent moment to get to know each other (and the Belgian beers) better and what her/his connection is with Japan. Unfortunately, as in Japan, the last train leaves quite early also in Belgium, so I had to leave, fantasizing how the next event would be like...

Tom Renders

3/19 は多くの方と知り合いになれ、とても有意義でした。いろいろな方が参加されており、自分の交流の場が広がるのがこの会の最大の魅力だと感じました。また次の機会も参加したいと思います。よろしくお祈りします。  
安藤一郎 Ando Ichiro



With first time participants and accustomed participants, with various connections to Japan & Belgium, everyone had a lot to share!

### BJA Youth Committee events

BJA YC Karting Cup 2005 ◆ BJA YC カートカップ 2005  
Sunday 5 June 2005 - 2005 年 6 月 5 日 (日曜日)  
*Emotions, speed, roaring engines and burning tyres ... join us for the BJA YC Karting Cup 2005! Experienced or beginner, you are welcome!*

興奮・スピード・うなるエンジン・焼け付くタイヤ: BJA YC カートカップ 2005 へようこそ! 初心者から経験者共に大歓迎です。

Made in Belgium Expo ◆ メイド・イン・ベルギー  
Sunday 3 July 2005 - 2005 年 7 月 3 日 (日曜日)  
*Belgium celebrates 175 years of independence: let's go discover Belgium in history, science, culture ... and more!*  
ベルギー独立 175 周年を記念した博覧会にてベルギーの様々な歴史、科学、文化等を発見しましょう。

Hanabi (Fireworks Contest and Sand Sculptures Festival) ◆  
花火 (花火コンテストと砂像祭り)  
Saturday 27 August 2005 - 2005 年 8 月 27 日 (土曜日)  
*On the Belgian coast, we'll visit the Sand Statues inspired by Belgian history and finally enjoy the international fireworks contest!*

ベルギーの海辺で 175 年の歴史から着想を得た砂像祭りを見学した後、花火コンテストで締めくくります!

For latest detailed information, please visit our site!  
最新の情報は BJA YC のホームページをご覧ください

[www.bja-yc.be](http://www.bja-yc.be)



The weather getting mild, the YCOM couldn't resist to go enjoy Belgian beers outdoors under the stars.

### Contact BJA-YC

For any questions, or additional information:  
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## EU-Japan Relations

### EU, Japan agree July deadline for fusion site

The European Union and Japan have agreed to a July deadline for deciding who should host the world's first nuclear fusion reactor.

The six partners involved in the project are divided in support for competing bids from Japan and France to host the site of the \$13 billion dollar project known as ITER. The six parties involved are the EU, Japan, China, the United States, Russia and South Korea.

To help resolve the deadlock, European Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik met with Japanese minister of science and technology, Nariaki Nakayama in Japan. "They undertook to accelerate their discussion on the agreed roles of host and non-host and will aim to reach an international agreement among 6 parties on the issue of the ITER site before July 2005," the Commission said.

The European Union has indicated it would go it alone if it could not reach an agreement with Japan but prefers to proceed with all partners on board. Previously Japan has balked at holding high-level over ITER, which Japan wants to build in the fishing village of Rokkasho but the EU wants in Cadarache, France.

Source: Delegation of the EC in Japan

### Japanese environmental market expected to double by 2020: Excellent opportunities for European SMEs

The first World Exposition of the 21st century in Aichi, Japan, focuses on "Nature's Wisdom". The choice of this theme reflects the importance of the environmental technologies market in Japan, which offers excellent business opportunities to European SMEs.

Dirk Vantuyghem, Director of International Affairs at EUROCHAMBRES, said: "Environmental issues are currently high on the political agenda. In Japan, the 3Rs principle (reduce, reuse, recycle) is widely promoted and furthermore stimulated by the Japanese government's pro-environment legislation. Japan tries to shift away from the eco-business model that requires waste-disposal to a new model based on recycling."

Japan has the largest environmental market in the Asia-Pacific region and the second largest worldwide behind the United States. It is expected to nearly double its size from 29.39 trillion yen (EUR 21.4 billion) in 2000 to ¥ 58.4 trillion in 2020 (EUR 42.0 billion). According to the Japanese External Trade Organisation JETRO the main promising growth areas in the Japanese environmental market are waste disposal and air pollution control, soil and water purification, effluent treatment, energy saving and alternative energies such as recycling technologies.

### European SMEs to seize a bigger slice of the environmental cake

As Mr. Vantuyghem outlined, "European SMEs enjoy an excellent reputation for the quality of their products. They can easily get a bigger slice of the environmental cake in Japan. Trade missions organized in the framework of EU Gateway to Japan have resulted in 92% of participating companies expecting orders and 93% having good prospects from the contracts."

EU Gateway to Japan is funded and managed by the European Commission. The programme helps European SMEs to profit from business opportunities in Japan through trade fairs and trade missions in 8 specific sectors. The next recruitment for an environmental trade fair in Japan will be launched in May 2005 (more information/subscription: [www.gatewaytojapan.org](http://www.gatewaytojapan.org)).

Press release Eurochambres

### Regulatory Reform Dialogue Update

At the meeting which took place on 11 November 2004, discussions were focused primarily on the EU's proposals to Japan. In addition to proposals that had been raised in past years (information society, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, air transport, quarantines, etc.), the talks also addressed new items such as the privatization of postal services, defensive measures against hostile mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and "Urgent Adjustment Areas" for the liquor retail license system.

Vigorous discussions were held at the meeting on the proposals from the EU side, which includes the following topics.

**(a) Promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) in Japan**  
Various measures were discussed, namely to promote investment with an aim to facilitate and encourage investors' entry into the Japanese market; the use of Public Comment Procedure and "No Action Letter" (NAL) system; the problem of double payment for social insurance contribution; and the relaxing of conditions for residence status.

**(b) Financial services:** Elimination of overlapping regulations and more effective use of the no-action-letter by the Financial Services Agency (FSA).

**(c) Postal services:** Creating a level playing field in the course of privatising the Japan Post, placing its successor corporations under equivalent supervisory control as is the case in the private sector.

**(d) Government procurement:** Improvement of the tendering procedures for construction and other areas. Both sides also exchanged practices on Private Finance Initiative (PFI)/Public Private Partnership (PPP) and electronic procurement.

# EU-Japan Relations

## (e) Market regulations

Market regulations for pharmaceuticals, medical devices, blood plasma and cosmetics, improvement of the registration process for new drug applications and adoption of international standards for medical devices. Japan's proposals for the EU were also discussed with the Brussels meeting in mind:

(a) Expediting the EU's work to confirm the equivalence between Japan's accounting standards and the international accounting standards (IAS);

(b) Elimination of the Japanese concern regarding the new chemical regulation in EU: the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) system;

(c) Establishment of public comment procedures and the "No Action Letter" system in EU;

(d) Consideration of Japan's request with respect to the Standard Contractual Clauses concerning the Data Protection Directive;

(e) Establishment of a system to accept foreign lawyers in France and permission for foreign lawyers in Germany to provide legal services pertaining to third-country laws;

(f) Simplification of the process of issuing visas, residence and work permits, and harmonisation of this process at the EU level;

(g) Resolution of the problem of driving licences, which affects Japanese enterprises operating in Europe;

Both sides confirmed at this meeting that the Japan-EU Regulatory Reform Dialogue is an effective means to promote regulatory reform in Japan and the EU and to promote investment.

The last meeting was held in Brussels on 3-4 March 2005. The full text of the proposals of both Japan and the EU are available at:

- Japan's proposals :  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/eu/overview/derego411/pdf>
- EU's proposals:  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/europe/eu/overview/derego410/pdf>

Source: Mission of Japan to the European Union

## Event Calendar for the '2005 EU-Japan Year of People-to People Exchanges' in Belgium

Source of information from the Japanese Embassy

### 23 May - 16 June

#### Exhibition of Sumi-E and Hanging Paintings 'After the rain'

(Cultural and Information Center)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 31 May

#### Business Seminar 'Japanese Business Etiquette & Manners' organized by BJA

(Conrad Hotel, Brussels)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 4 June - 11 September

#### 5<sup>ème</sup> Triennale de la Tapisserie et des Arts du Tissu de Tournai 'Fascinants Textiles du Japon' (Tournai)

### 17 - 18 June

#### Demonstration of Kimono (Japanese Traditional woman's costume)

at Tournai by Kyoto Kimono Fashion Ass.  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 5 June

#### Concert by Japan & EU amateur chorus

(St-Joseph Church, Uccle)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 6 June

#### Lynx Flute Concert by 4 Japanese ladies, supported by Nihonjinkai

(Palais des Beaux-Arts)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 7 - 9, 14 - 16 June

#### Pluridisciplinary Performance (music, dance and sculpture)

(Bureau local d'Art Contemporain)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 8 June

#### Concert by Japan & EU amateur chorus

(Cultural and Information Center)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 11-29 June

#### Joint Exhibition of Japanese paper-made dolls by Mrs Kiyoko Takanami and paintings by Mr Etienne Dekimpe

(Atelier de la Dolce Vita)

[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 23 June - 6 July

#### Japanese Woodblock Paintings Exhibition by Mr Olivier Bar

(Cultural and Information Center)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### July

#### Friendship visit by junior high school students of Himeji City to Charleroi city

(sister city partnership)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 8 July

#### Demonstration and workshop of Ikebana and Tea Ceremony

organized by Japanese group  
(Cultural and Information Center)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 11 - 28 July

#### Exhibition 'Art in Japan'

About 20 Japanese artists (paintings, sculptures) (Cultural and Information Center)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 16 - 21 August

#### Summer Seminar for Kendo, Iaido & Judo

organized by All Belgium Kendo Federation (Centre Sportif de la Foret de Soignes, Brussels)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 9 September

#### Public Reading of Shizue Ogawa's Poems

by Mrs Shizue Ogawa and Donna Tamaki  
(Cultural and Information Center)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

### 9 - 11 September

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Japanese Language Education in Europe

organized by Belgian Association of Japanese Language Teachers (KUL Leuven University)  
[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

Calendar continues on page 13

## Focus on Belgium

### Fiscal policy

Belgium managed to reduce the government debt to an estimated 95.9% of GDP at the end of 2004, thanks to a rather dubious accounting manoeuvre. There remains an underlying deficit of about 0.47% of GDP, which was partly neutralized by the strong growth of the domestic economy. Although domestic demand is expected to keep on growing, the forecast for 2005 is slightly less positive: deficits could drastically increase should there be a slowdown in domestic economy or an uncontrolled rise in public health spendings.

The Economist's Country Report on Belgium

### Belgian "Notional Interest Deduction": a boost for Capital Intensive Investments in Belgium and an alternative to Belgian Coordination Centers

On 4 March the Government reached an agreement on the introduction of a system of 'notional interest deduction'. The new system entails the granting of an exemption on the corporate tax charge equal to the fictitious profitability of the shareholders' equity (net worth), computed on the basis of the 'OLO' interest rate (State loans). The rate will be higher for SME's (+0.5%). The big advantage of this measure is that the current discrimination between the tax treatment of investments financed with borrowed funds (currently, the related interest paid is deductible for tax purposes) and financing with own funds is largely removed, thanks to which the self-financing of companies, including SMEs, will be encouraged. The measure will result in more creditworthy companies, will reduce the number of bankruptcies and will stimulate the formation of companies.

The Government is convinced that this positive measure will, to boot, turn out to be a valuable alternative for the maintaining in business in Belgium of co-ordination centres, whose numbers employed total more than 3,500 and whose licensing will end in late 2010 in any case. In addition, the measure is reinforced by the complete abolition of the duties on contributions.

Another important point is that the measure will apply across the board and will, accordingly, comply with European directives. This will provide legal certainty, which makes for a not-to-be-belittled setting that investors will find attractive. The measure will enter into force as from tax year 2007.

www.investinbrussels.com

### Belgium scores high in E-government index

Belgium ranks in 16th position for E-government readiness, according to the "Global E-Government Readiness Index 2004" survey made by the United

Nations covering 191 countries.

In addition, Belgium made the greatest improvement of any country in the period 2003-04, rising seven places in the UN's index. The report praised Belgium for the introduction of electronic filing of taxes, and the launch of a new electronic ID card, which allows Belgians to access government services online, print official documents at home and send registered mail electronically.

Belgium is also the first country in the world to deliver passport with a digital chip containing personal data.

www.investinbrussels.com

### Belgium leads in low tariffs for banking services

According to The World Retail Banking Report 2005 Belgium ranks in the leading places among 19 countries regarding the lowest tariffs for banking services.

The inquiry on the global retail banking market shows the pricing structure of financial services around the world, providing a clearer view of today's retail banking industry dynamics. This study conducted by The European Financial Management & Marketing Association (EFMA), ING and Capgemini, analyses 130 banks from Western to Eastern Europe, also including North America and the Far East.

The good performance from Belgium is assessed according to the basic average costs for banking services, which are the most often used, and the global tariff profile.

Indeed, Belgium reaches the 5th place as far as basic average cost are concerned, with a figure of EUR 57 per year, the average of the 19 countries being EUR 78.

Moreover, regarding the global cost, which means taking into account all the services provided by a bank, Belgium reaches the 3rd place thanks to low tariffs, more precisely, an annual average cost of EUR 63.

One final aspect, which is put forward by the study, shows that Belgium is one of the leading countries (3rd position) regarding the ratio between banking costs and GDP per inhabitant, lagging just behind the Nederland and Sweden.

www.investinbrussels.com

### Japanese healthcare firm to open research facility

The Japanese company Yakult Honsha, a pioneer in the field of preventive health solutions and probiotics, is to establish a European research facility at the VIB (Flanders Institute of Biotechnology) bio-incubator in Ghent, the company has announced.

The Yakult European Institute for Microbiological Research will carry out research into intestinal flora and

## Focus on Belgium

digestive function in Europe in close cooperation with local research establishments and universities.

Yakult has more than 70 years of experience in probiotics development and has achieved global recognition in the use of friendly bacteria in foods, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. The aim of the scientific work in Europe is to help accumulate data on probiotics and applications on an international level. Ghent and the VIB bio-incubator will provide Yakult with the possibility of further developing its scientific research, the company said.

With the assistance of the Flanders Foreign Investment Office in Japan, Yakult chose the VIB facility for its European operation. The company said that the VIB bio-incubator provided R&D intensive companies with the opportunity to start up quickly in a specially adapted, state-of-the-art infrastructure.

VIB is a research institute under whose umbrella some 800 scientists conduct gene technology research in a number of life-science domains, such as human healthcare and plant systems biology. Through a joint venture with four Flemish universities and a solid funding program for strategic basic research, VIB unites the forces of nine university science departments within a single institute.

FFIO News

### Flanders no stranger in Japan

Flanders is almost unknown abroad and foreign trade is therefore better conducted under the Belgian flag is a frequently heard argument in some commercial and diplomatic circles. There are various reasons for Flanders' reputation in Japan. The cultural aura of Flanders and the fame of its artistic cities are facts. In the "Flanders Center", Director Bernard Catrysse succeeds in introducing Flemish artists to a broad Japanese public.

On an economic level, no fewer than 150 Japanese firms have a presence in Flanders. They employ 14,000 people. Obviously that strengthens ties. Most of these Japanese firms are based in Flemish Brabant, on the Antwerp-Limburg axis. In turn, around 70 Flemish companies export to Japan. They are mainly active in the foodstuffs sector (beer and chocolate are gaining further in importance), but also in diamonds (Antwerp in particular), chemicals, machines and the pharmaceutical sector. The Flemish region accounts for 90% of Belgian exports to Japan, or 2 billion euros on an annual basis.

Tourism is also an economic sector. Japanese tourism to Belgium is again on the up following several difficult years. In the first five months of 2004 the total number of Japanese stopping off in Belgium rose by 21% compared

with 2003. The increase is bigger in Flanders, says Wim Vanseveren, Director-General of Toerisme Vlaanderen. Flanders' artistic cities provide healthy figures: Antwerp +16%, Bruges +50%, Ghent +17%, Leuven +57%, Mechelen +7% and Brussels +15%. In 2003, for which complete figures are available, 114,452 Japanese tourists visited Belgium, good for 220,566 overnight stays or 1.4% of all foreign bookings. 53% of them stopped off in Brussels, 42% in the Flemish Region and 5% in the Walloon Region. Tourism from Japan still has enormous possibilities for growth. Toerisme Vlaanderen therefore hopes to attract 250,000 Japanese tourists a year by 2007, good for 500,000 overnight stays.

Gazet van Antwerpen

### Event Calendar for the '2005 EU-Japan Year of People-to People Exchanges'

*Continued from page 11*

#### Autumn

##### Goodwill visit by Delegation of Himeji City to Charleroi City

(commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sister city partnership)

[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

#### 10 - 21 October

##### Exhibition of Paintings by Japanese and Belgians

'Intercourse Culture Expression'

(Cultural and Information Center) [recognized as Exchange Year Event]

#### 1 - 9 November (planning)

Japanese theatre 'Umewaka Noh' organized by Umewaka Kennnoka

1 - 9 November: Exhibition of Noh costume and mask (Royal Academy of Arts, Antwerp)

5 November: Workshop (Music Instrument Museum, Brussels)

7 November: Workshop (Royal Academy of Arts, Antwerp)

8 November: Workshop (de Singel, Antwerp)

9 November: Performance (Royal Academy of Arts, Antwerp)

#### 21 November - 8 December

'Infinity', solo exhibition, Kazuko Misawa

(Cultural and Information Center)

[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

#### End November

15<sup>th</sup> Japanese Speech Contest

(Japanese school, Brussels)

(organized by Nihonjinkai)

#### 13 - 16 December

Ikebana Exhibition Kadou Soufoo-Kai

(Cultural and Information Center)

[recognized as Exchange Year Event]

# Agreement on Social Security

## The recent signing of the Agreement between Japan and Belgium on Social Security

On 23 February 2005, His Excellency Ambassador Shohei Naito and Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel De Gucht signed the long awaited Agreement between Japan and Belgium on Social Security. The signing took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the presence of Nihonjinkai and BJA representatives in recognition of their active support.

The conclusion of an agreement on social security between the two countries has been at the top of the BJA's agenda for several years. The BJA knew how important the conclusion of this agreement would be for Japanese investors and expatriates in Belgium, and vice versa.

The signing of the agreement is a significant achievement for those involved in its preparation. It is all the more impressive because, back in 2000, such an agreement was not expected for at least another 20 years.

In 1998, a social security agreement between Japan and Germany was signed. It was the first social security agreement that Japan concluded. The Japan-UK agreement followed two years later. Then, negotiations between Japan and France were to start in 2001. It was perceived that Belgium, with its high social security contributions, could soon become the most expensive country for Japanese expatriates in Europe.

within the year. We must acknowledge the crucial role played by Yoichi Kato, then Director General of JETRO Brussels Center and a key member of both the BJA's Business Committee and Nihonjinkai, in successfully campaigning against all the odds.

In April 2001, the newly inaugurated BJA Legal & Tax Committee addressed the social security agreement during its very first meeting. Together with the Business Committee and the Investment Committee, it was then decided to organise a meeting with representatives of the Belgian Ministry of Social Affairs and set up a task force. The first meeting was held at the Cabinet of the Minister for Social Affairs in May 2001. Representatives from both the BJA and Nihonjinkai participated.

Preparatory sessions of negotiations started between the two governments in November 2001. The challenge was to accelerate the pace of negotiations despite the negotiators' heavy work load. In addition to the support of the prime ministers of both countries, which boosted the negotiations, feedback and an exchange of information were organised, whenever needed, among the various players with the active involvement of the BJA.

In December 2002, Masatomo Nomura and Tanguy Van Overstraeten, chairman of the BJA Investment Committee and chairman of the Legal & Tax Committee respectively, shared information and know-how with the Japanese delegation in charge of negotiations (from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) during a meeting at the Japanese Embassy in Brussels.

Potentially controversial issues were fully discussed and the delegation appreciated BJA's interest and co-operation.

Progressively, the combined efforts of the Belgian government, led by Prime Minister Verhofstadt, Nihonjinkai and the BJA bore fruit. From October 2003 on, formal negotiations took place in Brussels and Tokyo.

The agreement became a priority for both governments, which led to its swift de facto conclusion in September 2004 and formal signing on 23 February 2005. The fact that the signing of the Japan-Belgium Agreement took place two days before the signing of the Japan-France Agreement, negotiations of which had started earlier than those of the Japan-Belgium Agreement, shows how committed the officials of the two governments were.

The signing of the agreement is a very important milestone towards its implementation. The procedure is not yet complete as the Belgian Parliament and the



From right to left: The BJA delegates Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Chairman of the Legal & Tax Committee, Mr Luc Willame, BJA President, Mr Daniel Thielemans, BJA Vice-President & Chairman of the Business Committee and Mr Masatomo Nomura, Chairman of the Investment Committee.

HE Ambassador Naito placed his signature, with Minister De Gucht by his side.

The BJA lobbied both Belgian and Japanese governments through its Investment Committee and its Business Committee. The Japanese government, however, had apparently given a priority to countries with larger Japanese population. According to this priority list, Belgium would have had to wait until 2020!

Towards the end of 2000, unprecedented lobbying was mounted. During a summit meeting in February 2001, Belgian Prime Minister Verhofstadt and Japanese Prime Minister Mori agreed to start negotiations

# Agreement on Social Security

Japanese Diet must now ratify it. The aim of the BJA is to continue deploying all necessary efforts towards a smooth ratification with the same vigour.

Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Chairman of the Legal & Tax Committee  
Masatomo Nomura, Chairman of the Investment Committee

## 最近署名された社会保障に関する日本国とベルギー王国との間の協定について

今年2月23日、内藤昌平駐ベルギー大使およびカレル・フフト・ベルギー外務大臣が、待ち望まれていた社会保障に関する日本国とベルギー王国との間の協定に署名を行いました。署名は、ベルギー外務省で行われ、協定締結に対する積極的な貢献を認められた日本人会およびBJA代表団が立会いました。

両国間の社会保障協定の締結は、ここ数年間のBJAの議題における最重要事項でした。BJAは、日本とベルギーの投資家、ベルギー在住の日本人、日本在住のベルギー人にとって、この協定の締結が重要であることを以前から認識していました。

協定締結に関わってきた人々にとって、協定への署名は大変大きな成果です。特に2000年の時点では、日本・ベルギー間の協定締結には20年かかると予想されていたことを考えると、感極まるものがあると言えます。1998年に日独間で日本にとっては最初の社会保障協定が締結されたのを皮切りに、その2年後には日英間の協定が締結され、2001年には日仏間の交渉が始まろうとしていました。ベルギーの社会保障制度に対する掛け金は大変高いため、ベルギーは早晩日本人派遣者にとって欧州で一番高コストの国になる可能性が現実味を帯びてきました。

BJAでは、投資委員会とビジネス委員会が中心となって、ベルギー政府と日本政府両方に対し、社会保障協定の早期締結を求めました。しかしながら、日本政府は、日本人人口の多い国から順番に社会保障協定を締結して行く方針でした。この優先順位によると、ベルギーは、2020年頃まで待たなければならなかったのです。

2000年暮れに、日本・ベルギー間の協定締結の時期を前倒しにするため、両政府に対する活発な運動が展開され、その結果、ついに2001年2月に東京で開催された首脳会談において、ベルギーのフェルホフスタット首相と日本の森首相の間で、年内に協定締結のための交渉を開始することが合意されました。この成功の陰には、BJAビジネス委員会と日本人会の重要なメンバーであった加藤洋一・ジェトロ・ブリュッセル・センター所長（当時）の活躍があったことを忘れてはならないと思います。

2001年4月には、新たに発足されたBJAの法務・税務委員会が、第一回会議において早くも、社会保障協定を議題として取り上げました。そしてビジネス委員会と投資委員会と共に、ベルギー社会問題省の代表者と会合を開くことを決定し、特別部会を設置しました。第一回の会合は2001年5月、社会問題大臣官房で、

BJAと日本人会の両方の代表が参加し開催されました。2001年11月には、両政府の間で予備交渉が開始されました。課題は、交渉担当者の作業負担の重さを承知の上で、なお交渉のペースを促進することでした。交渉に対しては両国首相の強い後押しがありました。それに加え、必要なときはいつでも、BJAの積極的な関与により、各関係者間のフィードバックおよび情報の交換が行われました。

2002年12月には、ブリュッセルの日本大使館における会議において、BJA投資委員会および法務・税務委員会のそれぞれの委員長である野村正智とタンギー・ファン・オーバーストラテンの両名が、交渉を担当する日本代表団（厚生労働省）との間で、情報およびノウハウの交換を行いました。特に重要な問題点につき十分な議論が行われ、日本代表団は、BJAの関心および協力に感謝を示しました。

フェルホフスタット首相に率いられるベルギー政府、日本人会およびBJAの努力は、着実に実を結んで行き、2003年10月からは、ブリュッセルおよび東京において本交渉が開始されました。

交渉は両国間の最優先課題として迅速に進められ、2004年9月には協定に関する実質的な合意が成立し、2005年2月23日の署名に至りました。日本・ベルギー社会保障協定の署名が、先行して交渉が行われていた日仏社会保障協定の署名の2日前に行われたことは、いかに両国の担当者が本件に全力を傾けたかを示しています。

この協定の署名は、施行に向けた非常に重要な一里塚です。協定にはベルギーおよび日本の国会による批准が必要なため、手続はまだ完了には至っていません。BJAは批准がスムーズに行われるよう、これまでと同様の熱意をもって今後も全ての必要な努力を継続するつもりです。

BJA法務・税務委員会委員長 タンギー・ファン・オーバーストラテン  
BJA投資委員会委員長 野村正智  
日本語訳・BJA法務・税務委員会 岩波修・BJA投資委員会委員長 野村正智

## Summary of the Agreement between Japan and Belgium on Social Security

The following is a summary of the Agreement between Japan and Belgium on Social Security that was signed on 23 February 2005 (hereafter the Agreement.)

### 1. Who will be covered?

The Agreement will apply to all persons who are subject to the Belgian or Japanese social security legislation as well as all persons who derive rights from such persons. (Article 3)

In concrete terms, not only Belgian or Japanese nationals but also nationals of third countries who are subject to the Japanese or Belgian social security legislation can make appeal to the provisions of the Agreement.

# Agreement on Social Security

## 2. How will seconded employees be exempted from double contributions?

An employee, who is normally employed on the territory of a contracting state by his employer and who is sent by that employer to work on the territory of the other contracting state, will remain subject to the legislation of the first contracting state, provided that the expected duration of the detachment to the territory of the other contracting state does not exceed 5 years. An extension of this 5 year period can be granted after agreement by the competent authorities. (Article 8)

Thus, a Japanese seconded employee can stay with the Japanese system and be exempted from paying Belgian social security contributions for up to 5 years. If his or her stay is prolonged beyond 5 years, it is possible to obtain an extension.

Japanese seconded employees who are already in Belgium on the date of the entry into force of the Agreement are eligible for a five year period from the date of entry into force of the Agreement. (Article 33.4)

It is important to note that seconded Japanese employees, who have already been exempted from paying Belgian social security contributions on the basis of the Belgian internal regulation prior to the entry into force of the Agreement, are eligible for a new full secondment period of 5 years from the date of its entry into force.

## 3. How about self-employed people?

Self-employed people will also be able to remain subject

Japanese or to the Belgian social security system. This means that the competent authorities of one of the contracting states can take account of the periods of coverage under the social security system of the other contracting state in order to establish the entitlement to the old age pension. (Articles 14, 16 and 21)

The system of totalization is important for those who have contributed to the Japanese pension system in the past. The Japanese system requires a contribution period of 25 years or more in order to qualify for its benefits. The Belgian system does not have such restrictions. After the entry into force of the Agreement, a person, who has contributed to Japanese system for less than 25 years but who has contributed a total of 25 years or more when a contribution period to the Belgian system is included, will be able to benefit from the totalization provision of the Agreement.

In practice, this means that they will be able to receive benefits from both systems on pro rata basis. However, in totalization, only the periods of coverage that do not coincide will be taken into account. (Articles 14 and 21) If a person is entitled to Belgian old-age or survivors' benefits without totalization, the Belgian authorities will calculate the amount of those benefits on the basis of the periods of Belgian coverage. The Belgian authorities will also calculate the amount of benefits that would be obtained by applying the rules on totalization. After their comparison, the higher of the two amounts will be used. (Article 15)



The long awaited moment: the official handing-over of the signed documents.



This significant moment in the relations between Belgium and Japan ended with a joyful exchange of views.

to their home country social security regime while temporarily performing their professional activities in the other contracting state. The detachment of self-employed persons is also limited to 5 years, with a possible extension of this period upon agreement by the competent authorities. (Article 8)

## 4. How will your pension rights benefit from the agreement?

The Agreement foresees the totalization of periods during which a person has been subject either to the

## 5. Do you have to live in Belgium to receive Belgian pension payments?

Payment of benefits will no longer be restricted by the place of residence. Thus a Japanese, who is entitled to receive payments from Belgian pension, can receive them while living in Japan or elsewhere. Before the entry into force of the Agreement, he or she could receive such payments only if living in Belgium. (Article 5)

## 6. Will coverage prior to its entry into force matter?

In the implementation of this Agreement, periods of

# Agreement on Social Security

coverage completed before its entry into force will also be taken into account for establishing entitlement to benefits. Thus those who have contributed to the social security systems of the two countries in the past could benefit from the provisions on totalization after the entry into force of this Agreement. (Article 33)

## 7. When is the Agreement likely to enter into force?

The Agreement will enter into force three months after its ratification. (Article 35) Experts estimate that it will enter into force by the end of 2006 though it could be delayed if it becomes a victim of a political whim during the process of parliamentary ratification.

Erwin Vandervelde, BJA Legal and Tax Committee  
Masatomo Nomura, Chairman, BJA Investment Committee

## 社会保障に関する日本国とベルギー王国との間の協定の概要

2005年2月23日に署名された社会保障に関する日本国とベルギー王国との間の協定の概要は次の通りです。

### 1. 誰がこの協定の適用を受けることができるのでしょうか。

この協定は、日本かベルギーの社会保障制度に関する法令の適用を受けているか受けたことがある人、およびそれらの人に由来する権利を有する人に適用されます。(第3条)

すなわち、ベルギー人や日本人でなくとも、日本かベルギーの社会保障制度の対象となっている人であれば、協定の対象となります。

### 2. 派遣者に対する社会保障二重加入からの免除はどのように行われるのでしょうか。

一方の締約国で雇用されている人が、他方の締約国で就労するために派遣される場合には、派遣の見込み期間が5年以下であることを条件に、派遣元の国の制度のみを適用することになります。派遣期間が5年間を超えて継続する場合には、権限ある当局の合意により、延長することが可能です。(第8条)

従って、日本からの派遣者は、5年間およびさらに延長が認められた期間について、日本の社会保障制度を継続することができ、その間、ベルギーの制度からは免除されます。

この協定が発効する時点ですでにベルギーに居住している派遣者については、その日から5年間、協定の適用を受けることができます。(第33条4項)

すでにベルギーの社会保障制度の免除を受けている日本人派遣者についても、発効の日を起点として5年間、協定の適用を受けることができます。

### 3. 自営業者はどうなるのでしょうか。

会社役員など、自営業者として働いている人も、5年

を超えると見込まれないことを条件に、元の締約国の年金・医療保険制度に加入したままで、他方の締約国で自営活動を行うことができます。活動期間が5年間を超えて継続する場合には、権限ある当局の合意により、延長することが可能です。(第8条)

### 4. 年金を受ける権利はどのような影響を受けるのでしょうか。

協定では、日本とベルギーの保険期間、すなわち公的年金へ加入していた期間を通算することを認めています。つまり、一方の締約国の権限ある当局は、老齢年金を受ける権利の取得のために必要な場合は、他の締約国における保険期間を考慮することができるようになります。(第14条、第16条、第21条)

この通算規定は、過去に日本の年金制度に加入していた人にとって重要です。日本の老齢年金を受け取る権利を得るためには、通常25年以上の保険期間が必要です。協定発効後は、日本における保険期間が25年未満であっても、ベルギーでの保険期間を加えると25年以上になる場合には、日本の老齢年金を受け取る権利を取得できるようになります。ベルギーの老齢年金には最適加入期間による制限はありません。

支給額は、保険期間の比率に応じて計算されます。但し、通算の際には、両国で重複している保険期間は考慮されません。(第14条、第21条)

保険期間を通算することなくベルギーの老齢給付または遺族給付を受ける権利が確立される場合には、ベルギーの保険期間のみに基づいて計算した給付額と、通算した結果得られる給付額を比較し、高い方が適用されます。(第15条)

### 5. ベルギーの年金を受け取るためには、ベルギーに居住していなければならないのでしょうか。

居住地による支払いの制限はなくなります。このため、日本人は日本あるいは他の国に住んでいても、ベルギーの年金を受け取れるようになります。これまで日本人は、原則としてベルギーに居住していない限り、ベルギーの年金を受け取ることはできませんでした。(第5条)

### 6. 協定発効前の保険期間は、考慮されるのでしょうか。

この協定に基づいて年金を受け取る権利を確立する際には、この協定の効力が発生する以前の保険期間も考慮されます。従って、過去において日本とベルギーの両方の年金制度に加入していた人は、協定発効後、通算規定の恩恵を受ける可能性があります。(第33条)

### 7. 協定はいつごろ発効するのでしょうか。

この協定は、批准が相互に通知されてから3カ月後に発効します。(第35条)

協定の批准が政局に左右される可能性はあるものの、2006年末までには発効すると関係者は予想しています。

BJA法務・税務委員会 エルウィン・ファンデルフェルト  
BJA投資委員会委員長 野村正智  
日本語訳 BJA投資委員会委員長 野村正智

# The Investment Committee

The objective of the BJA Investment Committee is to promote investment from Japan to Belgium on the one hand and investment from Belgium to Japan on the other hand.

To realise the objective, this committee:

- creates a network of people and information through regular and ad hoc meetings
- carries out research, makes recommendations and prepares publications; and
- acts as a partner to governmental and non-governmental organisations that are willing to promote, facilitate or realise investment.

The Committee is composed of more or less equal number of Belgian and Japanese members. The committee members represent the main actors in the promotion of investment such as governmental organisations, investment agencies, financial institutions, investment advisors and investors themselves. Apart from its members, specialists and investors may be invited to meetings. Meetings are held four times a year.

Chairman: Masatomo Nomura

BJA 投資委員会は、日本からベルギーへの投資とベルギーから日本への投資を促進することを目的としています。この目的を達成するため、委員会の会合を通じて人と情報のネットワークを創り、調査を行い勧告や出版物を作成します。また投資を促進するために、政府、非政府機関と共同で活動を行うこともあります。投資委員会は、投資促進に関係している政府機関、投資公社、金融機関、アドバイザーならびに投資を行っている企業の代表によって構成されています。会合は年4回開催され、通常のメンバーに加え、専門家、投資企業などが参加することもあります。

投資会委員長：野村正智

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## BJA Investment Committee members

### Seiichi Asami 浅見 誠一

I am President of NGK CERAMICS EUROPE SA. Our operation in Belgium is concentrated on the manufacturing of ceramics for automotive catalysts. Out of my activity in the BJA, I am also one member of directors of the Japanese School of Brussels and member of the Cultural Exchange Committee of Nihonjinkai. My long field experience in manufacturing has taught me that the key factor in manufacturing is 'human resources'. Since my arrival in Belgium 10 years ago,

I have constantly been looking for the reason which made Belgium so attractive. Cultural inheritance, nature and food are known by all but my attention has always been drawn on the way Belgian people live, work and handle. They work hard and in a positive way. After all those years I'm still delighted and happy to see how they harmonize with Japanese in our factory. As far as my private life is concerned, I have two daughters living in Japan. I spend my spare time visiting museum, attending concerts, and other cultural events together with my spouse. From time to time Japanese students join us and make opportunity to have small international communication with their international friends.

NGKの浅見です。BJAの活動のほかに日本人学校理事、日本人会文化交流委員会の活動をしています。会社はフランス国境に近いワロン地域にあり、日本ガシシの欧州生産拠点として排ガス浄化触媒セラミックスを生産しています。私の本業は生産ですが、ここでは人的資源がもっとも重要です。ベルギー滞在が10年を超えますが、終始ベルギーの魅力を見つけることを心がけています。おかげで、よく知られたベルギーの自然、文化遺産、食べ物のほかにベルギーの人びとの魅力を見つけられています。我々の工場でベルギー人が自主的に、速いスピードで働いているのをみますと、この国に来ている幸せを感じます。私生活では、娘2人が独立し、日本にいますので、もっぱら家内と二人、ドライブや美術館めぐりなどで週末を過ごしています。ときにはここに日本人留学生やその縁で知り合った諸国の学生やベルギーの若者が加わることもあり、小さな国際交流を楽しんでいます。

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### Emmanuel de Bueghem

Business Development Manager, The Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA). Emmanuel is responsible for the Foreign Investment team at the BEA. The mission of this team is to organize the support of any foreign investors considering to set up in the Brussels-Capital Region. Its services include legal and fiscal advices, search for site location as well as contact with local authorities. The BEA is responsible to the Brussels regional government. Before joining the BEA, Emmanuel was Marketing Assistant Manager at Bridgestone Europe. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Catholic University of Louvain.

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### Katsuya Ikkatai

Counsellor, Embassy of Japan to Belgium  
I have been working for the Embassy of Japan in

# The Investment Committee

Brussels since April 2003, so it's been already two years. About ten years ago, when I was at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, I was working for economic relations with Europe. So I had so many occasions to make business trips to Brussels, the capital of Europe. I remember very well that at that time, the first priorities of economic affairs department at Tokyo were: reduction of Japanese trade surplus and promotion of Japanese investment flows to Europe. Although the second item remains one of the priorities for us, I am very impressed by the fact that since several years, promotion of European investment to Japan has come to the center of our work, and that is something I could not imagine ten years ago. I believe that such a thing reflects dynamism of economic relations, and that is the reason why to collaborate with our BJA colleagues is exciting and challenging.

私は 2003 年 4 月から在ベルギー日本大使館で働いておりますので、既に二年が経過したことになります。10 年程前、東京の外務本省におりました時には欧州との経済関係を担当する部署にいましたので、欧州の首都であるブリュッセルにもたびたび出張する機会がありました。当時の経済局の欧州担当部門の優先課題が二つあり、それが日本の貿易黒字の削減、日本からの対欧州投資促進であったことをよく記憶しています。後者は今でも我々にとっての優先課題ではありますが、数年前より欧州からの対日投資の促進も中心課題となっていることに非常に印象付けられています。これは、10 年前であれば想像できなかったことであります。私としては、このようなことが経済関係のダイナミズムを反映しているのであり、それこそが BJA の皆様と一緒に働けることがエキサイティングでチャレンジングである所以となっていると考えています。

## Daniel H. Jordan

Daniel was born on 13 January 1947 in Jemappes (Mons). He joined the Office for Foreign Investments (OFI) in January 2005 where he is Director for Asian Investments. OFI is now part of the Wallonia Export and Investment Agency (AWEX) since end of 2004. OFI provides advice and assistance to foreign investors considering a move to Belgium and particularly Wallonia. He had previously been Deputy Director for Asia (China Desk) at AWEX (2001-2004) and Attaché at the Middle East Department of AWEX (1999-2001). He also had an extensive overseas experience as Country Manager for the Belgian World Airlines SABENA in Iraq, Australia, Egypt, Liberia, Gabon, Thailand and Spain, from 1978 to 1999 and lived in South America for more than 10 years (Venezuela & Colombia). He has been

awarded by the Colombian Government with the order of San Carlos as knight. He graduated from the Free University of Brussels with a degree in Politics Sciences (1972). Daniel enjoys during his free time doing tennis. He speaks Spanish and English too. He is married with Ingrid he met in Baghdad in 1978 when posted by Sabena and has two daughters (Christelle 17 born in Libreville, Gabon - and Cynthia 24 years old born in Namur). Daniel H. Jordan, Avenue Materne, 115-117, 5100-Jambes, Tel.: 081.332873 – Fax: 081.332869

## Dirk Luyten

Partner, Levante Capital Management  
Company: Levante Invest, active in the Private Equity sector specializing in growth projects and management buy-in/outs in the consumer goods and retail sector in Europe. Before that, 16 years active in consulting in the same sectors (Sweden, Spain, Benelux, Croacia and Japan). Training: lawyer, econometrician and MBA (INSEAD).  
Avenue de Tervueren - Tervurenlaan 300, 1050 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 777 97 96, Fax: +32 2 762 64 62

## Masatomo Nomura 野村正智

Chairman of the Investment Committee. A member of Business Committee and Board of Directors of BJA. Director and Co-ordinator of Japan related businesses at KPMG in Belgium. In my current position, I am primarily responsible for developing advisory services towards Japanese companies based in Belgium and the Netherlands. My professional experience includes providing strategic advice to companies and organisations in such areas as European re-organisation, business expansion, business transformation, the EU company law and tax law, corporate governance and risk management. My work and living experience includes, in addition to Belgium and Japan, the Netherlands, the UK, France, Central & Eastern European countries, Russia and the US. I moved to Brussels in 1992 after three years in Amsterdam. I am a graduate of Waseda University and hold an MSc in Economics from London School of Economics. I am a rider and, with my horse Reykjavik, I practise show jumping. Away from Belgium, I often spend my time in the Alps for skiing in winter and for climbing in summer.

BJA では、投資委員会委員長に加え、ビジネス委員会委員および理事を務めています。KPMG ベルギーのディレクター、日本関連事業の統括コーディネーターとし



Seiichi Asami



Emmanuel de Beughem



Katsuya Ikkatai



Daniel H. Jordan



Dirk Luyten



Masatomo Nomura

# The Investment Committee



Charles-Albert Snoy

て、主に在ベルギーおよび在オランダ日系企業に対するアドバイザー業務の推進を担っています。欧州事業再編・拡大、ビジネス・トランスフォーメーション、コーポレート・ガバナンス、リスク管理、EU 会社法・税法などの分野での、戦略的なアドバイスが専門です。これまでに日本とベルギー以外にも、米国、ロシア、中東欧諸国、フランス、イギリス、オランダでの居住、ビジネス経験を持っています。ブリュッセルには1992年に参りました。前任地はアムステルダムでした。早稲田大学政治経済学部を卒業後、ロンドン政治経済学院で経済学修士を取得しました。趣味は乗馬、スキー、登山で、愛馬レイキャビックとともに障害を飛び越えることを楽しみとしています。



Erik Sterckx

## Charles-Albert Snoy

After having obtained with honours a degree in Commercial and Financial Sciences (1964-1969) at ICHC, Charles-Albert Snoy's professional career started in July 1970 with Tudor Marsh & McLennan in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In October 1972, he joined Henrijean, the leading insurance broker in Belgium that was representing Marsh & McLennan. In May 1976, he started handling Japanese business in Belgium and he made his first business trip to Japan in 1979. Since then, he has continued to develop Japanese business across Europe and visited Japan about 29 times. As a Board Director of Marsh in Belgium, he was elected member of the Board of Directors of the BJA on 15 November 1995 and he joined the BJA Investment Committee on 26 November 1996. Charles-Albert Snoy is married, has one son (who is airline captain) and a sixteen year old daughter. His main hobbies are: golf, hunting, skiing, oenology, Japanese cuisine.



Takashi Suzuki



John Verzeele

## Erik Sterckx

I am involved in the BJA Investment Committee as head of unit of the Federal Service for Foreign Investments, the contact point for foreign investors of the Federal Public Service Economy. We give information through our 'Investment Guide' and website, we help potential investors and of course also those who are already present in Belgium, and we work on the improvement of the investment climate in Belgium for all foreign companies in collaboration with the regional investment agencies. Japan is one of the most important investors in Belgium from outside the EU and we will continue our efforts to convince more Japanese companies to come to Belgium. For me personally it is a pleasure to be in contact with 'Japanese Belgians', with whom I like to discuss also other subjects than 'just' economy!

## Takashi Suzuki

I am a director of JETRO Brussels, in charge of business promotion. My career in JETRO started since 1994. I used to work for organizing International Trade Fairs in Vietnam, Brazil, India & China, and Technology development cooperation to the industries in developing countries in the world. Before assigned in Brussels, I was a representative of JETRO Lagos Office in Nigeria. Here in Belgium, I am working for promoting any business between Belgium and Japan, especially focusing on Belgian company's business investment in Japan. Almost 3 years have passed since I came to Belgium, I (my family also) love this country and really enjoy our life here. As one of the members of Investment committee, I will try my best to contribute to it.

ジェトロの鈴木隆史です。ジェトロ・ブリュッセルでは対日ビジネス支援の担当をしています。1994年にジェトロに入り、ベトナム、ブラジル、インド、中国など海外の国際見本市のオーガナイズや、途上国の産業技術向上を支援するために日本人技術者を派遣する仕事を経験したのち、2000年からナイジェリアのジェトロ・ラゴスの所長を勤め、2002年9月にジェトロ・ブリュッセルに赴任しました。今、特に取り組んでいるのはベルギー企業の対日投資支援です。ベルギー駐在も早や3年になりますが、家族共々、ベルギーでの生活を楽しんでます。これからも投資委員会のメンバーとして、両国間のビジネス促進のため、最善をつくします。

## John Verzeele

John Verzeele was born on 7 April 1961 in Brugge. John Verzeele joined the Flanders Foreign Investment Office (FFIO) in 2004, where he is Director Business Development Asia-Pacific. FFIO provides confidential advice and assistance to foreign businesses considering a move into Flanders. We can advise on all aspects of an investment - from financial matters through to site selection and personnel recruitment. He had previously been Chief Executive of a conference service-provider named Timewind and Director of the Bruges office of the Chamber of Commerce. He graduated from the University of Ghent with a degree in languages (Spanish and French) and has held a number of positions on both public and private organizations. John Verzeele is also Honorary Judge in Social Affairs and in his free time he enjoys doing jogging and tennis. He is also taking Japanese courses in order to understand better all aspects of the Japanese way of life. John.Verzeele@ffio.be, Gaucheretstraat 90, 1030 Brussels, Tel: +32 2 504 88 71 - Fax: +32 2 504 88 70

# Personalia and sponsors

## Statutory nominations

The Board of Directors would like to inform you of the acceptance of two resignations from the Board: Mr Steenackers of Deloitte and Mr Schobbens of ING.

We would like to thank Mr Steenackers for his continuous support and dedication to the BJA. We will miss his ideas and suggestions, but hope to still welcome Mr Steenackers at many future BJA events.

Mr Schobbens also tendered his resignation from the Board, but will continue his Chairmanship of the EU Committee. We look forward to many more events from this dynamic Committee of the BJA, under his leading.

We officially welcome four new Board Members, two members who joined us last year as successors to Mr Tanaka of JETRO and Mr Yamamoto of Mitsui & Co. Benelux. We deeply appreciate the warm support of Mr Watanabe of JETRO and Mr Shimizu of Mitsui & Co. Benelux who are taking up the role of their predecessors on the Board of Directors.

The two other new Board Members are Mr Tsutsui of Toyota Tsusho and Mr De Witte of Deloitte, who also kindly accepted our invitation.

Lastly, we hereby would like to inform you of the re-nominations for a period of three years: Mr D. le Hodey, Mr D. Thielemans, Mr J.P. Beherman, Mrs A. Blondé, Mr E. De Beukelaer, Mr F. Hoorelbeeke, Baron C.A. Snoy, Mr T. Van Overstraeten, Mr W. Vande Walle

The Board of Directors has approved this new Board (consisting of 20 members) during the Board Meeting, and approved and voted during the BJA General Assembly on 16 March 2005.

### BJA database update-request for new Directory issue 2005-2006

We have the pleasure to inform you that we are preparing for the second edition of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce Directory, to be published autumn 2005. We therefore would like to kindly request you to update your database profile as a company member of the BJA, if necessary. The deadline is 1 July 2005. By introducing the members, this Directory has the aim to be a powerful resource for building, managing and expanding networking and business opportunities, cultural exchange, finding jobs, evaluating goods and services, and researching trends or publications. In addition an annex of all Japanese companies in Belgium will be provided in this issue as well.

It offers an excellent view on the importance of the network of the Belgian and Japanese companies in Belgium, and therefore is a unique resource publication to identify "who is who" in Belgium with regard to Japanese business and vice versa.

The 2005-2006 Directory is a unique tool for corporate and commercial communication towards this prestigious target. We remain at your disposal for any further information you would need.

## New Members

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

### Corporate Members:

#### SIMMONS & SIMMONS

(Law Firm)

Avenue Louise 149, B16, 1050 Brussels

Tel: 02/542 09 60 • Fax: 02/542 09 61

Email: morven.hadden@simmons-simmons.com

Web site: www.metropole.be

BJA Contact: Mrs Morven Hadden, Solicitor

### THESE DAYS

(Mass Communication)

Broederminstraat 9, 2018 Antwerp

Tel: 03/286 44 50 • Fax: 03/286 44 51

Email: welcome@thesedays.com

Web site: www.thesedays.com

BJA Contact: Mr Erwin Jansen, Managing Partner

### Associate Members:

#### TELELINGUA INTERNATIONAL

(Mass Communication)

Avenue A. Lancaster 79A, 1180 Brussels

Tel: 02/373 68 84 • Fax: 02/373 68 82

Email: lvanhaute@telelingua.com

Web site: www.telelingua.com

BJA Contact: Mr Luc Van Haute,

Vice President Business Development

### Individual Members:

Regular: Mrs Mami Furutsubo

Mr Pascal Heuschling

Mrs Hai Yen Van Kessel

Mr Björn Verrelst

Student: Mrs Kathaline Premont

Mrs Caroline Rausch

Mr Martin Teller

Mr Anthony Van Beneden

Mr Bram Vanderborght

## Sponsors

We would like to express our gratitude to

**Daikin Europe** who has upgraded their corporate membership to sponsor membership.

### Daikin Europe

(Manufacturing)



Zandvoordestraat 300, 8400 Oostende

Tel: 059/55 81 11 • Fax: 059/55 88 99

Email: hoorelbeke.f@daikineurope.com

Website: www.daikineurope.com

BJA Contact: Mr Frans Hoorelbeke, Vice President

Mr Junichi Sato, President

We would also like to express our appreciation to the current sponsors.

**beherman**



**Deloitte.**



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