

Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce ASBL- VZW



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Trade Flows & Cultural News

Building Bridges

by Mr Thomas Leysen, CEO of Umicore and new President of the BJA

It is a great honor for me to accept the chairmanship of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce. It is also a real pleasure. When I was first asked by Luc Willame and various other eminent persons to take on this responsibility, I was somewhat doubtful whether I would have sufficient expertise to carry out this duty in an appropriate way and whether I would be in a position to devote sufficient time to it. In the end, I let myself be convinced by the kind arguments and the gentle persuasion - but I have to say that I was also personally quite tempted to take on this opportunity to engage again more directly with Japanese enterprises, culture and society, to make new Japanese friends and to play a role in promoting Belgian-Japanese ties.

I have to admit that I have had a special affection for Japan, ever since I spent almost a year in Tokyo as a young university graduate in the early eighties. A Belgian shipping company gave me at that time the opportunity to work as a trainee in their recently opened Tokyo office as a commercial assistant. The job was not easy, as our company had to prove itself as a newcomer against very well established international and domestic competition. This experience gave me a bottom-up view of the Japanese corporate world and its very demanding standards in terms of quality and service. I learned many valuable lessons in those days.

Luckily, the job also left me some free time in the weekends to explore Tokyo and its surroundings. Thanks to Japan's highly efficient and punctual railway system, I was also able to venture further a field, not only to the well-known scenic areas and to the historical cities of Kyoto and Nara, but also into the mountains and to some of the other islands. I also used that year to read quite some literature, regrettably only in translation, but which still gave

me a certain feeling for the Japanese soul which I believe has stayed with me ever since. To this day, Kawabata remains one of my favorite authors. My only regret is that my stay in Japan was too short to begin a real study of the language. Hence, my Japanese vocabulary was never very big, and by now it has shrunk to a mere 20 or 30 words. I still look back with great fondness on that year in Tokyo as one of the formative experiences of my life.

The company for which I am working now, and this for the last 18 years also has a tradition in Japan. In fact Umicore has been selling certain special metals and engineered materials to Japan since the 1920's. Our tradition of supplying some of the great names of Japanese industry and commerce with cobalt and germanium based metal powders and compounds goes back to those days. In recent years, we have significantly widened our product range and are supplying many high-tech industries with advanced materials based on rare and precious metals.

Whilst up to a few years ago our presence in Japan was essentially commercial, through our agents Mitsui & Co and through our own Tokyo sales office, in recent years we have also acquired an industrial presence.

In Himeji, we have a joint venture plant with Nippon Shokubai producing catalytic convertors for the Japanese motor vehicle industry, and in Tsukuba, Umicore has a plant specializing in Platinum and other precious metals based chemicals. But it is still only a small fraction, a too small fraction, of our 17,000 strong worldwide workforce, that is based in Japan, and it is our ambition to grow further in Japan in the next decade. It will also be a challenge to further

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Mr Thomas Leysen,
CEO of Umicore and new
President of the BJA

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Visit to the Belgian Federal Parliament - Networking with Mr De Croo, President Belgian Chamber of Representatives

Wednesday 14th of March 2007, Palace of the Nation, Brussels



BJA members enjoy a group photo with Mr De Croo, President of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives.

The Cultural Committee of the Belgium-Japan Association and Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure in inviting the members for a visit of the Palace of the Nation, the seat of the Belgian Federal Parliament.

A limited group of about 30 participants started the visit with a personal networking opportunity with Mr Herman De Croo, President of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. After Mr De Croo's appealing speech, the members posed several questions and with the remarkable experience in politics of Mr De Croo, this memorable hour proved to be a great opportunity to learn about the decision-making process in Belgium, the enigma of power, views on Russia, the regional issues and much more.

Upon thanking Mr De Croo, the guided visit of the Parliament itself began. The tour was highly fascinating, full of anecdotes about Belgian history, while having the opportunity to take a seat in the Senate and Chamber of Representatives' chairs.



BJA members enthusiastically view the architecturally impressive Senate Room inside the Belgian Parliament during a guided visit.



BJA members gather for a group photo with Mr De Croo, President Belgian Chamber of Representatives, during his networking session.

Annual General Assembly of the BJA Inauguration of Mr Leysen, new BJA President

Thursday 29th of March – All-Suite Hotel Le Châtelain Brussels

On March 29th, an audience of approximately 70 members attended the BJA General Assembly, held at the beautiful All-Suite Hotel Le Châtelain.

Mr Willame, President of the BJA, opened the meeting. The new BJA Vice-President Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten, Partner Linklaters LLP, reported on the financial results of 2006, followed by Mrs Anja Oto-Kellens, Executive Director, who presented the 2007 budget.

Mr Nicholas Sepulchre, CEO of Sogeman and Chairman of the Membership Committee, delivered a complete 2006 report of the membership situation, with the objectives of the Committee for 2007. Mr Van Overstraeten, as Chairman of the Business Committee gave then his report on the activities of the Business Committee. The Cultural Committee Report brought Baron François Boels to the floor sharing the past events organized by the Committee. The Friendship Committee Report 2006 was presented by the FC Chairman, Mr Olivier van Beneden. Lastly, Mr Willame announced the Statutory Nominations and proposed the new Board of

Directors. Mrs Oto-Kellens informed the members of the change in structure of BJA organization and Articles of Association. The members voted and all was approved with a more than 2/3 majority.

Before adjourning to the cocktails Mr Willame informed the members of his resignation from the BJA Board of Directors and introduced his successor, Mr Leysen, CEO of Umicore. Mr Leysen honoured us with his presence and delivered an insightful speech on building bridges.

The attendants, sad to see Mr Willame leave thanked Mr Willame for all his years of leadership and dedication during the cocktails. At the same time the members enjoyed greeting and meeting Mr Leysen, the successor of Mr Willame.



Mr Willame, Mr Van Overstraeten, Mr Sepulchre and Mr van Beneden are focused on debriefing the successful events of 2006.



BJA's new President, Mr Thomas Leysen, CEO of Umicore (second left) in good company: (from right) BJA's new Vice-President, Mr Manabe, President of Sumitomo Benelux, Mr Miwa, President, and Mr Asami, Advisor of NGK Ceramics Europe.



Mr Willame surrounded by dedicated members, Mrs Blondé of zeal, Prof De Keersmaeker of IMEC and Mr Vande Walle of Linklaters LLP.



Mr Vreysen of Yokoyama Belgium and Mr Kempen of Takenaka Belgium enjoying a conversation.



Seminar 'Managing your Total Assets - by Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) and Robotics'

Wednesday 25th of April – Fortis Brussels

The Membership Committee of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure in inviting all to the Business Seminar "Managing your Total Assets – by Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) and Robotics", the 25th April at Fortis.

This event was aimed at corporate management leaders wanting to improve the Total Assets of their company - physical and human.

After the participants arrived at the Fortis auditorium, the seminar began with Mr Tsutsui, President of Toyota Tsusho Europe, who gave an enjoyable and useful opening address. Mr Johnstone, former CEO, Automotive Distribution Group/Ford JMAC Joint Venture Company, followed and shared his experience and knowledge about 'Personal Robotics'.

Ir. Van Dooren, Head of ICE and Training Department of Arcelor Gent, explained how Arcelor improved results with TPM and even managed to win TPM Awards.

After the coffee break, Mr Nakanishi, Vice-President Overseas Business Department of JIPM-Solutions, gave a remarkable insight into the 'Total Productive Maintenance's Essential Philosophy', enlightening all attending on TPM's true nature and effectiveness. Mr Masaki, Head of Brussels Office of JMAC, followed up and introduced the panel sessions, which he productively moderated. Noteworthy questions were

asked to all the speakers and appealing answers were given.

This business seminar successfully ended with a networking cocktail where participants shared opinions, point of views, anecdotes, and business cards.



Two experts on management, Mr Johnstone and Mr Tsutsui.



From left to right: Mr Masaki, Head of Brussels Office of JMAC, Mr Johnstone, former CEO, Automotive Distribution Group/Ford JMAC Joint Venture Company, Ir. Van Dooren, Head of ICE and Training Department of Arcelor Gent, and Mr Nakanishi, Vice-President Overseas Business Department of JIPM-Solutions.



Mr Kaisin and Mr De Vreese of AW Europe debriefing matters on how to continuously improve working conditions.



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Friendship Committee News

Shinnenkai

Saturday 24th of February 2007

Stepping through the door of the restaurant, we left a dreary Brussels evening behind us and were welcomed into the warmth of a packed restaurant, with tables up to the door. In the center of Brussels, groups of people were celebrating the entry into the year of the Fire Pig. Although mainly a Chinese festival, the rotation of the animals in a 60 year cycle, has a large effect on the lives of the Japanese. As for the fire-pig, children born this year are said to have “pig-like” qualities...that is to say the qualities of a patient, noble and intelligent creature.

Certainly that evening the restaurant did an excellent job of combining a mixture of “fire” and “pig” in many of the dishes! In excellent Chinese dining style, after welcome drinks and starters an array of dishes were placed in the middle of the table, giving us a new dish to sample with every turn of the lazy-susan. From soup, steamed dumplings to pork, beef and vegetable dishes... The evening ended with a round of bingo, which saw quantities of Sake and Chocolate (the ultimate Belgo-Japanese mix!!) being won by several delighted members of the group.

The after-party made a move to the indoor market at St.Gery, giving everyone a chance to digest the delicious meal. The whole evening was an excellent success, with a mixture of families, students and business-people, all with a combined interest or connection to Japan. People spoke about memories and experiences from both Belgium and Japan...and the phrase “what a small world” could be heard at various points throughout the evening.

Leaving the party, as the last trains started to depart from Brussels, we hoped that we would be able to enjoy many more of such evenings in the year to come!



今回はグランプラス近くの中華料理店で、40名以上の仲間が集まって新年会が催されました。

おいしい料理に舌鼓を打ちながら、お酒を片手に話をすれば、初対面の人だってあっという間に友達です。どのテーブルでも楽しい会話で盛り上がりました。差し入れていただいたお酒もおいしくて、取り合いになるほどの大人気でした。ビンゴゲームになるとみんな賞品を狙って、お子さんたちの引いた数字に一喜一憂。運よく賞品をゲットした方、おめでとうございます！会話に夢中になっているとあっという間に1次会はお開きに、一部の人たちはそのまま2次会会場のバーに流れ込みました。バーではさらにみんなオープンになって盛り上がり、終電ぎりぎりまで話し続けました。初めて参加した人もそうでない人も、みんながすぐに仲良くなれる、1年の始まりにふさわしくとても楽しいイベントになりました。

By Charles Boyle

By Takumi Tanaka



Facts and Figures on Japan: Nagasaki

Back to the origins of four centuries of Japanese-Belgian relations

by Mrs Tiene Vertriest of Yamagata Europe and Editorial Committee Member

Without a doubt, Nagasaki is particularly known for its unfortunate fate of being the second atomic bomb target in 1945. This event obscures its fascinating and most varied history of early trade relations with the Portuguese and the Dutch. This already is an indication of the economic and multicultural history of this region from way back. From the early seventeenth century, Japan entered a period of 200 years of “isolation” (sakoku; 1639-1853). During this period, all commercial relations with the West were controlled and concentrated at the port of Nagasaki. As the rest of Japan was closed to the West, Nagasaki had the unique privilege of maintaining contact with the Dutch - which, at this time, also included “Belgians with roots in the Southern Netherlands - and it became a flourishing centre for cultural exchange and intellectual and scientific relations. After the reopening of Japan in the 1850’s, Nagasaki remained one of the major contacts with the West and established itself as a major economic force by developing its shipbuilding industry, which made it the second atomic target at the end of WWII. Today, Nagasaki is a vibrant port city, a tourist centre and an industrial base; all reasons to conclude that this region has a lot to offer and is definitely worth a closer look.

Nagasaki Prefecture is located at the north-western part of Kyushu, it borders Saga Prefecture on the east, and is otherwise surrounded by water. Nagasaki is close to the Korean Peninsula and China: Pusan in Korea is only 53 km away and the distance to Shanghai is the same as the distance to Tokyo. The total length of the coastline in Nagasaki Prefecture is about 4,175 km, which is the longest among those of all other prefectures in Japan. It also includes about 588 islands and the sea area managed by the Nagasaki Prefecture government is about 25 times as wide as the land area of Nagasaki Prefecture, which is as wide as the total land area of Kyusyu. In an earthquake-prone country such as Japan, it is also noteworthy that the Nagasaki Prefecture has virtually never experienced earthquakes.

Nagasaki serves as Japan’s window to China and other countries of Asia as it is located at the intersection of the Asian sea routes. At the same time, it offers competitive logistics to and from every part in Japan. The main ports are Nagasaki Port, Sasebo Port, and Izuhara Port, which annually handle ¥380 billion in trade (2005; export: ¥240 billion; import: ¥140 billion). Nagasaki Port offers cargo liner service once per week between Nagasaki and Pusan. Located in the centre of the prefecture, Nagasaki Airport is utilised every day by about 100 domestic flights, and offers six regular weekly overseas flights. The airport handles ¥10.5

billion in trade annually (2005; export: ¥9.7 billion; import: ¥0.8 billion).

What makes Nagasaki attractive for establishing a business? First there is the strategic location of Kyushu. Serving as a connection between growing Asian markets and the other major centres of Japan, Kyushu provides opportunities for expanding business activities in both these markets. East Asia continues to grow and the integration in the region continues to increase. East Asia is moving closer towards the establishment of an East Asian free business zone as governments in the region are working towards free trade and economic partnership agreements. Japanese companies with their strong presence in Asia continue to expand their market reach throughout the East Asian region and the already established networks provide foreign-affiliated business partners smooth access to these growth markets.

Another attractive aspect of Nagasaki is the fact that the prefecture has worked out an active plan to develop new business opportunities. The prefecture plans to attract 80 foreign affiliated businesses or business from other prefectures in order to create about 6200 jobs by 2010. This results in a great number of investment incentives, which are some of the nation’s most attractive, including various tax incentives, business establishment grants to assist with communications costs, office leases and personnel costs as well as investment in plant and equipment costs for information and communication related businesses including call centres, data input centres, finance centres and back offices.

What makes Nagasaki interesting for Belgian companies? Belgian investment in this area is not present yet but the fact that the prefecture has an established technology-based industry could be an important asset. Kyushu is called Silicon Island and companies focusing on high-tech manufacturing are particularly strong. Nagasaki also shares this success. The region provides opportunities for foreign companies to partner with Japanese firms during all business phases. And why wouldn’t we take our related rich history “back to the future” in remembrance of where the Japanese-Belgian relations started four centuries ago?



Migration - Japanese seconded employees

by Mr Erwin Vandervelde, Managing Partner, Laga and Mr Matthias Lommers, Associate, Laga

Important administrative impact on the presence of Japanese seconded employees and self-employed persons working in Belgium

Last year, the Belgian Council of Ministers approved an e-government project relating to social security. The project aims to modernise the Belgian social security system management and the legal framework for monitoring and controlling the employment of foreign nationals (called LIMOSA).

The system, which will enter into force on April 1, 2007, consists in:

- A mandatory declaration for each seconded employee and all self-employed persons working in Belgium who are not subject to the Belgian social security system (comparable with the DIMONA-declaration for employees who are subject to the Belgian social security system).
- An information exchange system between the social security authorities, the Ministry of Employment, the different Regions (competent for the application for work permits), the Ministry for Middle Classes (for professional cards) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (for residence permits). The information will become available and exchangeable between the different authorities.

In practice, the implementation of LIMOSA will entail that each Japanese employee who is assigned to Belgium without being subject to Belgian social security (even on a temporary and/or partially basis) and all self-employed persons who are working in Belgium need to be declared to the Belgian social security authorities before they start working in Belgium.

With this obligation, the Belgian authorities want to create better guarantees for the free movement of services and workers and want to obtain a better overview on the employment of foreign nationals in Belgium.

The application for the Limosa declaration can be filed by the employer, by his agent (e.g. Belgian lawfirm) or by someone appointed by him (e.g. the employee or someone of the HR department in Belgium). When filing the application for a Limosa declaration, the employee's name, contract details, place of employment, kind of employment (full- or half-time), the period of assignment and other information will need to be provided to the Belgian social security authorities through an online-application. The applicant receives a Limosa-1 certificate immediately after every application.

Exemptions to this mandatory declaration are created for, amongst others, the following categories:

- Short term assignees who attend scientific conferences or meetings in limited circles for maximum 5 days per month;
- Employees who are sent to Belgium for the initial assembly and/or the first installation of an item. It must concern qualified and/or specialised employees of the company delivering the item. The works may not take longer than 8 days;
- Specialised technicians of foreign companies who come to Belgium to carry out urgent repair or maintenance works to machines or equipment. It must concern machines or equipment that were delivered by their employer to the company where the repair works or the maintenance is done. These technicians may not stay in Belgium for longer than 5 days per month without Limosa declaration;
- certain categories of trainees.

The Limosa declaration is a legal requirement. Non-compliance can result in important penal and/or administrative sanctions. Both the employer, the person appointed by him or his agent can be punished with administrative and/or penal sanctions.

The one for whom or on whose premises the work is carried out in Belgium can also be prosecuted if he fails to declare the absence of a Limosa declaration to the government! In other words, the Belgian "user"/ principal can be held liable for non-compliance of contractors who employ foreign nationals on the premises of the "user".

As mentioned, the mandatory Limosa declaration will come into effect on 1 April 2007. For activities that have already started, there is however a transition period of six months.

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Season versus culture: Summer 夏

by Mr Dirk De haene of Oskar D and Editorial Committee Member

mi:N miN miN mi:N

After watching a bit of anime or reading manga in Japanese, you will soon notice the richness of the Japanese onomatopoeia database. They even have words for sounds that cannot be heard.

Prof John Whitman, in *Chit-chat among Japanese Farm Animals* writes:

“In addition to those onomatopoeia which imitate the sounds of nature, called *gisei-go* in Japanese, Japanese recognize two additional types of onomatopoeia: one that basically suggests states of the external world (*gitai-go*), and another that basically names internal mental conditions and sensations (*gijoo-go*). There is some overlap between the two.”

When talking about the typical sound of cicadas, one immediately thinks of a sultry evening in the French Provence. However, if you've had the opportunity to camp in the Japanese countryside during summer, you will agree with me that there's no place like Japan to 'enjoy' the sound of singing cicadas. Indeed, when you're not used to it, it might even keep you awake at night. And you don't have to go to far on rural territory... I remember a night in Koganei-shi (by Shinkansen about half an hour from Shinjuku station in Tokyo), where I couldn't catch sleep due to the excessive chirping .

The cry of the cicadas, *semi* (蟬) in Japanese language, is one of the piercing sounds of summer. When Japanese hear *semi* singing, they realize that summer has arrived. When there are many cicadas, the sound becomes like a shower, which is called *semi-shigure* (shower of cicadas). There is a famous haiku poem about cicadas written by Matsuo Basho (1644-1694):

静けさや岩に染み入る蟬の声

松尾 芭蕉

*The tranquility
Permeating the rocks
Voices of cicadas*

Matsuo Basho

Since cicadas die about a week after they are born, they are compared to the transient life of man.

If you like this, take a look at 'Japanese sound effects and what they mean', www.oop-ack.com/manga/soundfx.html

Of course, there is a sound description for cicadas in Japanese, and even different onomatopoeia for each type of cicada:

- Aburazemi (*Graptopsaltria nigrofuscata*) [ji:ji:jirijiri]
- Kumazemi (*Cryptotympana facial*) [sha:sha:]
- Higurashi (*Tanna japonensis* [kanakanakana]
- Minminzemi (*Oncotympana maculaicollis*) [mi:N miN miN mi:N]
- Tsukutsukuboushi (*Meimuna opalifera*) [o:shi:tukutuku o:shi:tukutuku]

In English, the sound of cicadas is described as *chi'kri'*. It's quite intriguing to compare our onomatopoeia with the Japanese versions. In the next Tradeflows, when autumn evenings invite you to read more, we'll have a look at some great manga and anime classics and do the test!



Cicada - the master of noisy summer days in japan

YES ! ... coming of age and getting stronger

by Mr Frans Blondé, Honorary Director of the BJA

Reacting with vigor ... to the statement made by HRH Prince Philippe - when leading one of his numerous economic missions to Japan - "Why is it I see so few young Belgian business people working in Japan to conquer the market?"... that is what BJA did more than 10 years ago, with the strong support of its (then) President Baron Velge, with the "touch of genius" and the continued involvement of Mr J.A. Moorkens, (then) Vice-President of BJA and Chairman of the Business Committee, and last-but-not-least the very active work of the (then) Executive Director Mrs F. Fujii-l'Hoost.

What was this "touch of genius"? Consolidating and focusing the function of the Export Committee into - what would become - the very hands-on approach of the Young Executive Stay programme. Starting from scratch is never easy ... so is the Japanese Challenge!

We focused on establishing systems and procedures for a guaranteed continuity of YES, where Mr J.-A. Moorkens played a crucial role. BJA promoted and explained YES, established rules for THE PERFECT FILE, selected the candidates, organized two training sessions, achieved the most suitable contacts in Japan with BLCCJ and organized the FOLLOW-UP in a debriefing session.

BJA and its partners cannot supplant the participants in their dealings in Japan, so BJA was giving advice in the peripherals of establishing business relations in Japan i.e. "long-term" - no tricks please - , strong commitment, genuine interest in and appreciation of the Japanese Businessmen, their formidable companies and their fascinating country and all this supported by an attractive and quick communication.

As BJA had gained since long the trust of the Japanese community as "the" (cultural and) business interface between Belgium and Japan, our main challenge was to gain the faith of the would-be participants in BJA, as an adequate and dynamic tool for their Japanese plan, by giving no-nonsense advice about how to succeed this challenge to the mutual benefit of Japan and Belgium. The 5 YES programmes are proof of this faith.

Does the future look bright and shiny? YES! We have now achieved YES V, and since several years, the rejuvenated YES committee, headed by Mrs Ann Blondé, is working fine, also with the support of the rejuvenated Business Committee, headed by Mr D. Thielemans (until recently), and of Mrs Anja Oto-Kellens, current Executive Director.

By the way, we always tried to acquaint the YES-participants during their stay with a striking feature of Japanese Society, and for YES V, - it is my personal opinion-, that we achieved an absolute summit, thanks to Mr M. Sato, Chamberlain of His Majesty The Emperor. Indeed Mr Sato guided us in person through the Imperial Gardens. Thank you, Mr Sato, at BJA we need friends like you.

Also a thank you to ALL OF YOU, for making YES I II III IV V ... happen!

We have the pleasure to inform you of the creation of a YES Alumni Organisation and this as a result of our lustrum celebration - 10 years YES in 2006.

The purpose of this Alumni Organisation is the gathering of all former and future YES participants and in this way create a platform where people can share experiences, keep in touch with co-participants and network with participants of other YES programs.

A first activity will be organised in the 2nd half of 2007, a getting-together where you will be able to meet YES participants and other members of the BJA.

May I end this celebration article with a strong thank you to HRH Prince Philippe who, for each of the 5 YES programmes took time to have face-to-face communication with each of the participants, during one of the training sessions.



Mr Sato (in the middle) and Mr Blondé (4th from right) surrounded by YES V participants and the YES Program co-organizers.

“say yes to YES”

Interview: A Japanese view of Belgium - Mr Yukio Hakkaku, Director, Cultural and Information Centre of the Japanese Embassy by Mr Kris Sierens, Managing Partner BeforeTheHype and Editorial Committee Member

Trading your native domestic sensibilities for a great way of life in Belgium may sound a bit strange, but that's exactly what Mr Yukio Hakkaku did. A world citizen, he has a wealth of experience for comparison. In his opinion, a country with such a high quality of life certainly deserves to be recognized. Here is another Japanese view of Belgium that you might find surprising.

Mr Hakkaku is the Director of the Cultural and Information Centre of the Japanese Embassy in Brussels. The aim of the Centre is to promote Japanese culture, understanding, and to provide information about Japan. The Centre highlights many of the well-known Japanese traditions, such as Ikebana and tea ceremony, but contemporary art is also high on his agenda. Most of the information the Centre provides is about Japan in general, including current events, the country's history and political background, along with information geared towards the media, organizations, and the government. This assignment, which started in December 2005, is Mr Hakkaku's second in Brussels. After his first assignment in Belgium between 1993 and 1997, he left for his new assignment in Kinshasa (DRC), where many Belgian expatriates live. His knowledge of Belgium helped him a great deal in that context. In 1998, when the civil war started, he received help from many Belgians when the Japanese Embassy was evacuated. During his present assignment, he had two occasions to visit Kinshasa as International Observer for the presidential election of DRC.

In 2000, he was moved to Montreal, which proved rather difficult. After all, it is not easy to go from the Equator to the high latitudes in one jump - from +36 ° to -25 °C! Two years later, he returned to Japan and was assigned to the co-operation and development service. That assignment included a special research on ODA programs at Quai d'Orsay (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France), requiring him to spend six months in Paris. In 2003, Mr Hakkaku was sent to Morocco where he was in charge of various economic assistance programs. Then, he has also been involved in a multinational co-ordination for the development of Morocco.

Because of his many visits to Belgium and other French-speaking countries, he never had a truly 'first impression' of Belgium. For him, Belgium was simply a very well developed country. Hakkaku's strongest sense of Belgium is its quality of life, which he finds to be very high. He appreciates the splendid living environment, the multitude of cultural events, and, of course, the many fine restaurants. In his opinion, Belgium probably has more restaurants at the highest level of quality than any other country in the world. The



famous Belgian chocolate and beer also rank very high on his list. And his children adore the 'french' fries. They study in French, which they were also able to do in Kinshasa, thanks to Belgian friends. Like all countries, Belgium has changed over the years - the number of cars has certainly increased and this has given rise to the many traffic jams. You also see more foreigners now, which makes Brussels a much more international city.

In Mr Hakkaku's opinion, the Belgians are best portrayed as they are in the Asterix comic strip: there they seem to be the bravest of all the Gauls. Asterix comics, by the way, are also the reason he became so interested in the French language. He finds that the Belgian people cherish a balanced life, which he finds superb. The Japanese people sometimes have difficulty thinking about 'living'. They sacrifice themselves to their job, and that's certainly a major difference in mentality and lifestyle.

Yukio Hakkaku receives numerous invitations to cultural events and attends as many as he can, even in his free time. When possible, he likes to play golf. In earlier days, he travelled more within Belgium and visited places like Durbuy, Redu the 'book village', Bruges, Ghent, and Hoboken (especially for the famous story of Nello and Patriche). He and his wife often visit their many Belgian friends throughout the country.

Life in Belgium has become so familiar that going back to Japan would require him to make large adjustments. Yukio Hakkaku enjoys the very comfortable environment here. He laughs and says that he now lives like the Belgians do. He has fully embraced the balanced quality of life, which he thinks is probably the best in the world. In fact, the last time he visited Japan, he experienced nostalgic feelings for his home in Belgium.

For people who genuinely want to start on the right foot in Japan, Mr Hakkaku recommends going without prejudices. And, if like most Belgians you have a talent for languages and learn to speak a little Japanese, your experience will be that much more successful and enjoyable.



News for the members

4th World Naginata Championship

The International Naginata Federation is proud to announce that the 4th World Championship will be held in Brussels, in The Palais du Midi, the 1st of September 2007 from 9 am to 18pm.

For further details visit our website:

www.naginata2007.com or contact Mr David D'hose at naginata2007@gmail.com

Invitation for BJA members for the 4th BDO Champions Challenge 2007 Field Hockey tournament on Saturday June 23: Belgium - Japan.



At the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of BDO Atrio (AuditorsAccountantsAdvisors) in Belgium we would be pleased to welcome interested members of BJA at the BDO VIP premises of the "BDO Champions Challenge Men 2007 field hockey tournament (June 23 until July 1, 2007) at Braxgata (Boom - Antwerp)".

The invitation is for the game between the national team of Belgium (world ranking 13) and the Japanese national team (world ranking 12) played on Saturday June 23 at 16:00 hour. We have 25 VIP arrangements available for BJA members. Join us in supporting our respective national teams!

The BDO Champions Challenge is a high level international field hockey tournament, played every two years. The tournament features the country teams ranked 7th - 12th in the world as determined by results

in the most recent Olympic Games or World Cup. The host nation has an automatic spot in the tournament. It has been since the Olympic Games of 1920 in Antwerp that such an important, world level, tournament took place in Belgium and it is especially important and challenging for the Belgian team to qualify for the Olympic Games in Peking 2008. The tournament is hosted by Braxgata Hockey Club which is located at the Provincial Domain "De Schorre" where you can enjoy international level field hockey competition in a beautiful natural surrounding.

BDO Atrio, is the Belgian member firm of BDO International, a worldwide network of public accounting firms offering auditing, accounting, tax en legal advice, and consulting in the public sector.

Registration for the event: contact or send an email

Mrs Valérie Meulebroeck

BDO Atrio

Guldensporenpark 14 (blok B)

9820 Merelbeke (Gent)

valerie.meulebroeck@bdo.be

Tel: +32 (0)9 210 54 23, Fax: +32 (0)9 232 43 40

www.bdochampionschallenge2007.be

News from the members

Marsh - Bruce Trigg appointed to head risk management practice in Europe.

Marsh, the world's leading risk and insurance services firm, has appointed Bruce Trigg to head its Risk Management Practice (RMP) in continental Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The practice is responsible for providing bespoke and sophisticated solutions to Marsh's largest and most complex retail clients focusing on the key areas of risk diagnosis, mitigation, retention and transfer.

Mr Trigg will report to Alex Moczarski, CEO for Marsh in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Mr Trigg, who has enjoyed a distinguished 32 year career in the insurance industry, joins from Aon's Global Large Corporate practice where he was responsible for its global worldwide network and global practice groups. Between 2003 and 2005 he was Executive Director in charge of Aon's Global Practice Groups and from 1998 until 2006 he was a Board Member at Aon Holdings BV. Prior to that he worked for many years at Jauch & Hübener in Germany.

News from the members

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Trigg said: “Never in my long experience in the insurance industry have I seen large corporate clients more hungry for sophisticated risk management advice, as well as excellent insurance broking service. Marsh’s superb and growing reputation for excellent risk advisory services gives us the opportunity to present a unique offering to potential and existing clients. I look forward to working with the team at Marsh to continue to transform our offering to meet the ever-changing risk profile companies are facing.”

Mr Moczarski said: “Bruce has a tremendous reputation in the market as an innovator and leader and will be a key part of our senior team. As risk becomes increasingly the responsibility of the boardroom, clients are looking for trusted advisors that can combine an understanding of their business with other key considerations such as regulatory and legislative developments, macroeconomic issues and the client’s own financial circumstances when presenting risk solutions. As we seek to broaden our offering, Bruce’s broad and deep experience of clients at the highest level, and across geographies, will be a tremendous asset.”

Source: Marsh

UCB - New European Approval for Xyrem(R) Provides Significant Advance in the Treatment of Narcolepsy

The European Commission has approved Xyrem® (sodium oxybate) for the treatment of narcolepsy with cataplexy in adult patients. This new indication means that Xyrem® is the first and only European Commission-approved medicine for this indication and supports the European Federation of Neurological Sciences guidelines on the management of narcolepsy which recommend Xyrem® as a viable treatment option across the multiple symptoms.

Narcolepsy is a life-long disorder which typically begins with excessive daytime sleepiness during the second and third decades of life, progressing to include disturbed night-time sleep, cataplexy (muscle weakness), sleep paralysis and hypnagogic hallucinations (hallucinations while falling asleep).

‘A large number of patients require the administration of several medicines to control the core symptoms of narcolepsy. With this new approval, Xyrem® offers physicians and a substantial number of patients a single treatment option.’ said Professor Gert Jan Lammers, Neurologist, Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands. In an extensive clinical trial programme, Xyrem® has been shown to:

- Reduce daytime sleepiness
- Lower the number of cataplexy attacks
- Improve night-time sleep quality
- Produce clinically relevant improvement in daytime functioning - an important component of quality of life

Across all studies, which involved more than 700 patients, Xyrem® was well tolerated.

‘The new indication is an important stage in our plans for the development of Xyrem® and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to rare orphan diseases. The multiple symptoms of narcolepsy can profoundly impact patients’ quality of life and we are pleased to offer sleep specialists and patients a new treatment option. ‘said Troy Cox, President CNS Operations, UCB.

Last year, UCB announced an extension to its Xyrem® licence agreement with Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which doubles the number of countries where UCB has commercialisation rights to the drug, and includes rights to Xyrem® in the treatment of fibromyalgia if and when the product is approved for this indication.

About UCB Headquartered in Brussels (Belgium)

UCB (www.ucb-group.com) is a leading global biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the research, development and commercialisation of innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology products in the fields of central nervous system disorders, allergy/respiratory diseases, immune and inflammatory disorders and oncology - UCB focuses on securing a leading position in severe disease categories. Employing more than 8400 people in over 40 countries, UCB achieved revenue of 2.5 billion euro in 2006. UCB is listed on the Euronext Brussels Exchange and owns 87.6% of Schwarz Pharma.

Source: UCB

New release of QA Distiller™

Yamagata Europe proudly announces the release of QA Distiller™ 6.0. The new version includes several new translation quality control mechanisms, such as a source language inconsistency check and an enhanced punctuation marks check. Also the regular expressions module has been expanded. Furthermore, the software introduces a built-in TMX editor: any translation memory exported in TMX format can now be edited directly in the QA Distiller interface.

About QA Distiller

QA Distiller is a software application that makes

News from the members

it possible to automatically detect formal errors in translations and translation memories, and enables their quick and easy correction. The traceable error categories include omissions, inconsistencies, formatting problems, and terminology errors. QA Distiller is able to batch process files and supports language dependent settings. In software comparison tests QA Distiller has been repeatedly chosen as the best performing quality assurance tool.

Don't hesitate to download the latest version of QA Distiller at www.qa-distiller.com and try out the new functionalities!

About Yamagata Europe

Yamagata Europe combines the linguistic expertise of a European documentation service provider with the Japanese obsession for unparalleled quality. With the development of QA Distiller, it leads the localisation industry to the next stage in the perception of translation quality, offering a successful solution to automate and objectify the efforts involved in checking technical translations. Yamagata Europe was recently selected as fellow of the Flemish initiative "Flanders District of Creativity". The initiative promotes creative and innovative entrepreneurship and has selected 50 entrepreneurs to spread the message.

More info can be found at: www.flandersdc.be

Feel free to contact:

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Tel: +32 9 245 48 31

www.yamagata-europe.com
www.qa-distiller.com
QA-distiller@yamagata-europe.com

EU - Japan Relations

Cooperation on ICT, protection of minors high on priority list for the European Commission and Japan

European Commissioner Viviane Reding, in charge of Information Society and Media, met Mr Yoshihide Suga, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, on 4 April.

During the talks, the Commissioner and Minister Suga exchanged views on the market developments and policies relevant to information and communications technologies (ICT) in both Japan and Europe. They also addressed ongoing policy and regulatory initiatives, in particular the competitive safeguards required to guarantee the openness and transparency of electronic markets.

Commissioner Reding and Minister Suga agreed on the importance of a safe and secure environment to encourage ICT usage, and to promote cooperation between European and Japanese initiatives to foster safety and the protection of minors. They encouraged the exchange of experiences between those responsible for organising awareness raising events on these initiatives. They also called upon operators in Europe and Japan working on self-regulatory initiatives to share best practises.

They agreed that ICT policies must keep up with the rapid pace of technological innovation, and that these technologies would be pivotal in helping address many common social challenges, from road safety to support of the elderly. In this sense, they shared the view that promoting exchanges between policymakers would be of mutual benefit.

Commissioner Reding also voiced her desire to see further joint research and development in areas of common interest in the field of Information Society Technologies, and announced a EU-Japan Cooperation Forum on ICT Research at the end of this year in Tokyo. She finally recalled that the EU 7th Framework



EU - Japan Relations

EU - 日本

Programme for Research, which runs from 2007 to 2013, is open to Japanese participation.

Source: EC Delegation in Japan

http://jpn.cec.eu.int/home/news_en_newsobj2159.php

EU Pavilion at BioFach Japan 2007 - international trade fair for organic products

From 10 to 12 October 2007 the 7th BioFach Japan, the international organic trade show, will take place in Tokyo. Nürnberg Global Fairs, the organiser of the BioFach Japan as well as the AHK debelux, German-Belgian-Luxembourgian chamber of commerce and official representation of Nürnberg Global Fairs in Belgium and Luxembourg, offer European companies the unique chance to break into the third largest market for organic products.

The European Pavilion at this year's BioFach Japan will attract the attention of the press as well as of specialised traders, create an ideal platform for the product presentation and facilitate the exhibitor's access into the Japanese market.

A more efficient and effective appearance at the trade show through synergetic effects and the use of the overall positive image of European products in Japan as a driving force to increase business contacts and sales are just a few of the numerous advantages of a participation in the European Pavilion.

But a participation in the EU Pavilion not only offers a perfect stand location attracting Japanese professionals. Moreover, the exhibitors are offered the individual support and know-how of an expert in the field of the Japanese market, before, during and after the fair.

Whether it is organic food or drinks, natural cosmetics or ecological products, a healthy lifestyle sets a new trend in Japan. Demand and supply for organic products continue to grow steadily and an ever-growing number of product innovations enter the market.

In contrast to all the other conventional food fairs, only this unique trade fair offers the opportunity to reach all the specialised organic buyers and distributors at once. More than 16,000 trade visitors, constituting a growth by 20% compared to the previous year, visited the stands of more than 190 exhibitors in 2006. The majority of the participating companies were extremely satisfied with the success of their participation. In

addition, the growth rates of organic products in Japan continue to grow steadily. For this reasons one can expect a trade fair which will beat records in 2007.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Manhattan office Tower
Bolwerklaan 21 Avenue du Boulevard
1210 Brussel - Bruxelles
Department Exhibitions and Events:
Ralph Ernst / Katrien Galle, Tel: +32 (0)2 204 01 86
ernst@debelux.org / galle@debelux.org

1-week training missions in Japan “World Class Manufacturing”

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation is currently inviting application for our forthcoming 1-week training missions in Japan - “World Class Manufacturing” - financed by the European Commission and for the benefit of EU manufacturing companies.

Two missions are organised this year, WCM-I will take place from 17 to 22 June 2007, and we are inviting applications until Wednesday, 28 March and WCM-II from 11 to 16 November 2007 with an **application deadline on Wednesday, 12 September 2007.**

Targeted at European managers, “World Class Manufacturing” is an intensive 5-day mission in Japan about improvement of productivity, assisting executives from EU companies to acquire a better understanding of how Japanese companies continually eliminate costs from their manufacturing. In a nutshell, this course brings you closer to WCM performance.

For more information:

- on the 2007/2008 forthcoming training missions: <http://www.eu-japan.eu/eu/training.html>
- on the missions: <http://www.eu-japan.eu/europe/wcm.html> or look at
- on the application procedure: http://www.eu-japan.eu/europe/application_form_wcm_june.doc

Feel free to contact me if you need some printed brochures and application forms.

Mrs Jessica Michelson
Marketing & Communication Manager
Tel: +32 2 282 0043, Fax: +32 2 282 0046
michelson@eu-japan.eu

Farewell to the BJA & A few words from the new Vice-President

by Mr Daniel Thielemans & Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten



Farewell to the BJA by Mr Daniel Thielemans, former BJA Vice-President

After nearly a decade, the time has come for me to say *sayonara* to all my BJA friends. This departure is only due to professional reasons that bring me to leaving Brussels for London, where I will be CEO of Fortis operations.

Having left Japan in 1989, it was only in 1997 that I was introduced to the BJA by François Baron Boels whom I later succeeded at the Investment Committee.

Mr Jean-Albert Moorkens, former vice-president, for whom I have a great esteem, did me honour when he asked me to take over his responsibilities.

During my tenure at the BJA, I followed 3 principles:

- always try to improve the mutual relationship between Japan and Belgium,
- always look to improve the service or added value to the BJA members and
- always keep the financial household in good order.

I had the opportunity in meeting so many interesting people at uncountable events and I wish to thank the BJA for this; I could mention so many names but my special thanks go to Mr Luc Willame, our chairman until recently and Mrs Fabienne Fujii-L'Hoost, former Executive Director of the BJA, for both their pleasant cooperation.

I am sure to leave the BJA in good hands and wish both Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten, my successor designate, and Mrs Anja Kellens, Executive Director, all the best. *Gambarimasu*.

With my kind regards,
Daniel Thielemans

A few words from the new Vice-President, Mr Tanguy Van Overstraeten

On 20 March 2007, on the proposal of our former president, Luc Willame, I was appointed by the Board of Directors as Vice-President of the BJA and Chairman of the newly created Executive Committee. This is a great honour for me, especially when I consider my illustrious predecessors, Jean-Albert Moorkens and Daniel Thielemans (who recently had to resign following his appointment to a management position in the UK). Although I am conscious of the challenge that this new task will represent for me, I am very proud of this appointment and hope I will deserve the confidence of the BJA directors as well as its members.

My involvement in the BJA activities started in the mid-nineties when I returned from Japan. At that time, I participated to many events and quickly became aware of the functioning of the Association and its great potential. With somewhat limited resources but with a great deal of enthusiasm and dynamism, the active Committee members were able to organise interesting activities and play an increasingly important role in the relationship between Belgium and Japan.

In April 2001, with the support of Daniel Thielemans and Fabienne Fujii-L'Hoost (then Executive Director), I launched the Legal & Tax Committee which I had the pleasure to chair for almost six years. I was also appointed director and was a few months ago invited to become Vice-Chairman of the Business Committee (which has recently been replaced by the Executive Committee).

All these years spent working for the BJA have been tremendously rewarding for me. I have met exquisite people with great talent and vision. It has also enabled me to continue cultivating my deep interest in Japan.

For as long as I can remember, I have been interested in the Far East. As a child, I practised judo and quickly became thrilled by martial arts in general. As a university student, I read as many Japanese novelists as I could. I discovered Endo, Kawabata, the more controversial Mishima and many others. At the same time, as an aficionado of the Movie Museum of Brussels, I broadened my "education" by watching Japanese masterpieces. I spent hours enjoying Ozu, Naruse, Mizoguchi and my favourite Kurosawa. I do not remember how many times I watched his brilliant movies "Shichinin no Samurai" and "Kagemusha"!

My dream came true when I visited Japan for the first time in 1989. With my first savings, I spent two weeks visiting as much as I could and trying to understand such a fascinating culture. It was three years later that, after my post-graduate studies in Chicago, I started working

in Tokyo, in a local law firm, while doing my best to learn some Japanese (which I continue to practise from time to time with my wife and my daughter as well as my Japanese friends, who are so patient with my attempts at expressing myself in their difficult language). Since my return from Japan in 1993, I have constantly been working for Japanese clients. I do hope that this experience as well as my previous involvement with the

BJA will enable me to serve the Association in my new function in an efficient manner. Obviously, I will not be able to achieve this without the active and faithful participation of you, as BJA members. I very much look forward to this great challenge and thank you all in advance for your kind support.

Tanguy Van Overstraeten

Farewell letter

by Mr Luc Willame, BJA President 2003 - 2007



Dear friends of the BJA,

It has been a real pleasure to be your President in the last four years. First of all, because it gave me the possibility to contribute here in Belgium to the continuous development of harmonious relationships between Japanese people and institutions and Belgians fellow citizens. During more than two decades, at Glaverbel, I had a fantastic and unique experience of working with or within a Japanese group. And over all those years, I had the chance to discover and to learn about Japan,

its people, its culture, its very subtle and refined code of conduct. I discovered that combining our differences and our similarities was a very powerful tool to create a truly multicultural society, which is very much needed in the world of today.

I am also convinced that, if Belgium can be considered as the gateway to Europe, Japan should be also seen by our fellow citizens as the gateway to Asia. The economic success of Japan is based on a model which includes both concepts from the East as well as from the West. And this is the message which BJA has been insisting upon in the last years.

Finally, my chairmanship at the BJA has given me the opportunity to meet and to work with a group of devoted people, my colleagues at the board. This group of people is admirable, because they are giving a very rare resource, their free time, to make our BJA always more attractive and useful to all our members. I want to thank them all for the splendid work performed during those numerous meetings. And I want also to thank Anja Otokellens and Mika Matsumoto for the very professional service they are providing for our organization.

I wish all the best to Thomas Leysen and Tanguy Van Overstraeten. I know both of them have the abilities to continue building a good bridge between the two communities.

Luc Willame

» continuation of p.1 "Building Bridges" by Mr Thomas Leysen

build up our research and development capabilities in a country where so much innovation in materials science originates.

It is Umicore's ambition as a materials technology company to further grow in Japan in the years to come, in tandem with our customers in many advanced industries. In order to help us guide our growth and development initiatives, we were deeply honored that former ambassador Shohei Naito has recently accepted to join our Board of Directors as a non-executive director, and he will be formally elected at our upcoming General Assembly of Shareholders. Umicore will obviously benefit from his wisdom and deep insights, but I believe that also many of his numerous friends here in Belgium will be delighted to know that he will return to Brussels four or five times a year to attend our Board meetings.

Let me now come to the BJA. As you know, I am new to this Association, but I am deeply convinced of the importance of its mission both in the economic and cultural sphere and also as a point of contact between the more than 6000 people strong Japanese community in Belgium and Belgian society. I believe that it has developed numerous worthwhile initiatives over the years. These include countless seminars, the attractive Young Executive Stay program, the many cultural activities and social gatherings. I have read with interest the Trade Flows & Cultural News magazine and seen the great variety in the program of the association. I am also very much impressed by the many individuals who are volunteering time and again to contribute to the workings of the association.

All these initiatives serve as a means to build bridges. Indeed, the BJA is building bridges between Japan and Belgian companies wishing to develop there, bridges between Japanese companies and the sometimes strange and fascinating ways of our small country, bridges also to the ever expanding European Union, bridges between cultures and bridges between individuals. In this, it serves an invaluable purpose in fostering greater understanding and greater interaction between 2 countries and regions which are far apart, but which have much to gain by working in common.

It will be my aim to make a modest contribution to these important goals, and in this to build on the work of my predecessors. Let me then, in concluding, thank Luc Willame, who has chaired this association for the last 4 years in his inimitable style, carried by his great

energy, his longstanding experience of Japan and his remarkable sense of humor. From his vantage point as a top executive of one of Japan's most important industrial groups, he was an ideal bridge-builder. All at the BJA are very grateful for his commitment and enthusiasm and we will endeavor to continue on the path he has shown us.

Thank you very much, Luc, for your services to the BJA and to fostering Belgo-Japanese friendship - and Thank You, dear members of the BJA, for granting me the honor of succeeding such an eminent man.

Personalia

Conferment of Decorations: "Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays with Rosette"



The Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce would like to warmly congratulate Mrs Chantal Kozyreff on the conferment of decoration "Order of the rising sun with gold rays with Rosette" to her by the government of Japan.

The BJA is honoured to have her among the BJA Cultural Committee Members, and indebted to her expertise she gladly shares to the benefit of Belgium-Japan relations. The decoration awarding ceremony was held on 6 March 2007 at the Ambassador's residence.

For the acceptance speech pronounced by Mrs Chantal Kozyreff upon the conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, we invite you to visit the

Personalia

following weblinks:

Mrs Kozyreff's Speech (in French)

<http://www.be.emb-japan.go.jp/english/japbel/kozyreff.html>

H.E. Ambassador Hayashi's Speech (in French)

<http://www.be.emb-japan.go.jp/english/aboutus/msg070306.html>

Information to the Members from the Board of Directors

Change of Structure and Statutes

The Board of Directors kindly asked for the approval of the change of BJA Statutes, as a result of - among others- a change of structure in the organization of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce, by the General Assembly on the 29th of March.

In order to vote on the change of Statutes, the BJA Office sent all members the documents related to the changes. At the General Assembly, a presence and representation quorum of more than 2/3 of the members approved this and voted in favour of the decision.

The Structure of Organization has changed;

FROM:



TO:



Summary of the changes in the Articles of Association (BJA Statutes)

Changes have occurred in the following :

- Contribution: art 7
- Bodies and committees within the Association: art 11-12-13-16
- D. The Executive Committee: this complete part (including art 21 and 21bis) has been deleted as it concerned the former Executive Committee
- E. Committees: art 23-24
- Deletion of art 25-26-27

The numbering of articles and titles has changed because of deletion and insertions of the articles above, starting from art. 21

The new Articles of Association can be visited on:
http://www.bja.be/statuten_fr.php (French version)
http://www.bja.be/statuten_nl.php (Dutch version)

Statutory nominations

The Board of Directors would like to kindly inform the members about the following:

a) Resignations:

- Mr Masuko, former President of Mitsui Co. & Benelux has been transferred to the UK and tendered his resignation.
- Mr Daniel Thielemans, former Managing Director Corporate Banking Fortis Bank and former Vice-President of the BJA, has tendered his resignation from the Board and all other mandates in the BJA, as he is transferred to the UK.
Mr Van Overstraeten has been nominated as successor to Mr Thielemans in being the new BJA Vice-President.
- Mr Luc Willame, former President of the BJA, has tendered his resignation.

b) Re-nominations:

- The re-nomination of Mr Tadashi Arashima, CEO and President of Toyota Motor Europe is proposed to the Board.
- The re-nomination of Mr Masatomo Nomura, Director of KPMG is proposed to the Board.

c) Proposals of nominations:

- The nomination of Mr Nishimura, successor of Mr Masuko as President of Mitsui Co. & Benelux, is proposed to the Board.
- The nomination of Mr Mitsugu Manabe, successor of the former President, Mr Ishida of Sumitomo Benelux, former Board Member of the BJA. Mr

Personalia

Manabe has been nominated President of the Nihonjinkai and therefore we would like to welcome him as a new Vice-President of the BJA.

- The nomination of Mr Thomas Leysen, CEO of Umicore is proposed to the Board. It is also proposed he should take over the chairmanship of BJA.

All of the above have been informed and approved at the General Assembly of March 29, 2007.

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

Corporate Members :

DE WITTE LIETAER (Cars and Related industry)
Koningin Astridlaan 48, 8930 Lauwe
Tel: 056 430 211, Fax: 056 430 265
k.daels@dwli.be, www.dwl.be
BJA Contact: Mr Kristof Daels, Key Account Manager

FUJITSU SERVICES (IT Industry)
Jan Emiel Mommaertslaan 16A, 1831 Diegem
Tel: 02 712 77 11, Fax: 02 712 77 51
info@be.fujitsu.com, www.fujitsu.com/be
BJA Contact: Mr Filip Lecomte, Marketing Director

LIBRIDIS (Logistic Service provider)
Industriepark Noord 5A, 9100 Sint-Niklaas
Tel: 03 760 30 11
h.scherlippens@libris-group.com, www.libridis.be
BJA contact: Mr Hans Scherlippens

Associate Members :

BEYOND PRODUCTS (Snowboard industry)
Pourbusstraat 25, 2000 Antwerp
Tel: 03 237 96 53, Fax: 03 237 96 53
peter@beyondsnow.com
BJA Contact: Mr Peter Van Riet, Managing Director

LES CARRIÈRES DE LA PIERRE BLEUE BELGE (Stone industry)
88 Rue Melle Hanicq, 7060 Soignies
Tel: 067 346 800, Fax: 067 346 801
julie.abraham@pierrebleuebelge.be, www.pierrebleuebelge.be
BJA Contact: Mrs Julie Abraham, Deputy General Manager

ROAD AIR BELGIUM (Transport, Logistics)
Building 741, 1931 Brucargo
Tel: 02 751 80 15, Fax: 02 751 84 61

edc@roadair.be, www.roadair.nl
BJA Contact: Mr Edmond De Clercq, Director

Individual Members:

Regular members:

Mr P. De Poorter
Mr P. Huybrechts
Mrs M. Kuhlmann
Dr Z. Lin
Mr D. Luyten
Mr W. Nuyten
Mrs A. Ueda

Student members:

Mr T. Hankard
Mrs M. Iwata

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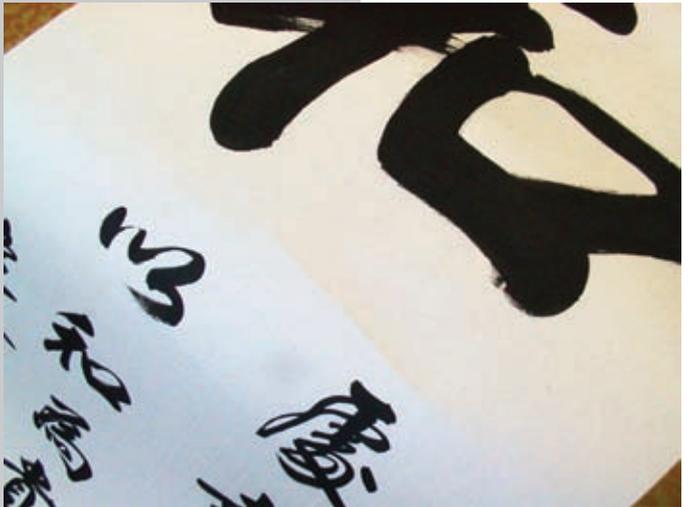
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Yamagata Europe: Manuals & More

Yamagata Europe was founded in 1998 as a subsidiary of the Japanese Yamagata Corporation to serve Yamagata's multinational clients in Europe. We offer a variety of team-based services for handling technical documentation and marketing communication projects from A to Z: desktop publishing, translation and localisation, terminology management, printing and logistics.

Yamagata firmly believes in the customer-oriented approach: years of experience gained in serving the documentation

divisions of our Japanese customers and striving for ever-higher levels of quality have resulted in our automation of the "human processes" wherever possible. Our drive to satisfy customers has accelerated the development of multiple tools that have proven to improve the workflow and reduce costs. These have now been assimilated into our integrated Total Quality Approach. This is what allows us to be successful in providing thorough and efficient services to a highly demanding market.

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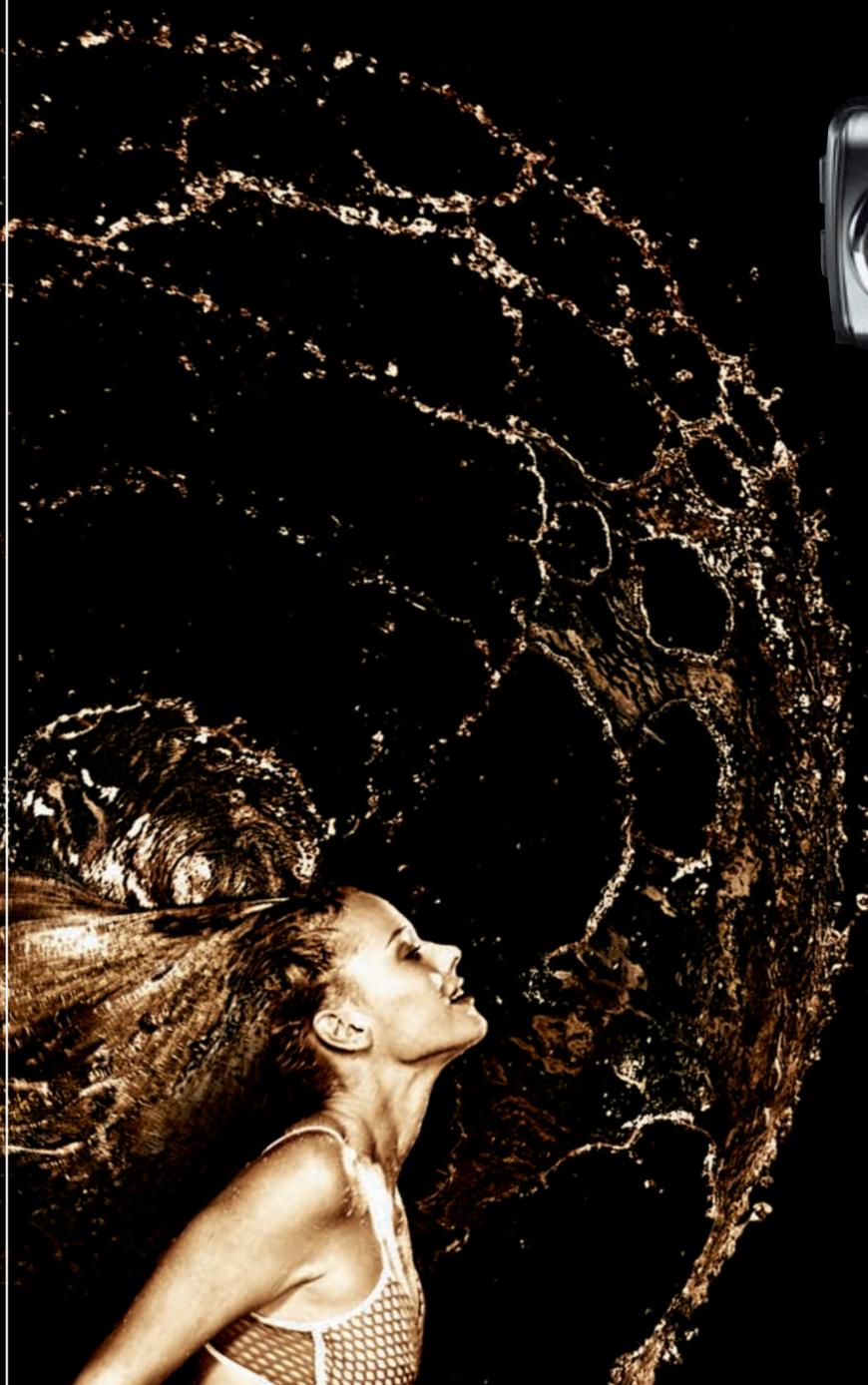
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