

RIKEN Europe Office Anniversary Symposium

Opening remarks by Ambassador Nakane

Dr. KOYASU Shigeo, Executive Director of RIKEN,

Dr. ICHIOKA Toshiyasu, Director of RIKEN Europe Office,

Mr. Jean-Eric PAQUET, Director-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission,

H.E. Mr. KODAMA Kazuo, Ambassador for the Permanent Mission of Japan to the European Union,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to give my opening remarks and congratulate on the 1st anniversary of the establishment of RIKEN Europe Office. It is well-known that RIKEN is the largest and top-line institution for high-quality scientific research in Japan.

RIKEN Europe Office is one of the key institutions which contribute to strengthening Japan-EU cooperation and to building even stronger partnership with EU and European countries in various fields of scientific research.

Japan and EU have been building strong ties for cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

10 years ago, the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed to aim to further enhance bilateral cooperation between Japan and the EU. Since then, the Joint Committee Meeting has continuously been held every alternate year and we have deepened our cooperation based on the agreement. The 5th Joint Committee Meeting, in which I serve as a co-chair, will be held here in Brussels tomorrow. I am expecting a productive meeting with active discussion.

We also hold Japan-EU summit every year. This year, the leaders of Japan and the European Union met in Brussels in April for the 26th summit meeting and issued a joint statement. In the statement, it was reconfirmed that the both sides commit to the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership in Research and Innovation and are committed to extend the co-funding of joint projects. This is an important message that supports and encourages further development of our cooperation.

The Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement entered into force on February 1st of this year. On the same day, the provisional application of the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement, SPA, started. In March this year, the first Joint Committee meeting of Japan-EU SPA was held in Tokyo. The SPA brings together ongoing discussions in existing dialogues between Japan and EU in various areas, including science, technology and innovation, and yields a

synergic effect.

In addition, “The Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between Japan and the European Union” was signed only 2 months ago. Although this Partnership intends that Japan and the EU to work together on all dimensions of connectivity, it also reconfirms their intention to continue promoting exchange of researchers and coordinating policies boosting innovation in the concrete areas such as Artificial Intelligence, ICT, quantum computing and renewable energy.

Furthermore, two remarkable programs will be launched in the very near future: on the Japanese side, Cabinet Office newly establishes Moonshot Research and Development Program. On the EU side, Horizon Europe will be kicked off in 2021.

I believe that RIKEN will take a key role in both programs and their European office will have an important role in connecting Japanese and European researchers and institutions.

Today, we will learn about the EU’s STI programs and then, will discuss several essential topics for our future society: sustainability of resources, health, and quantum technologies. In the second part, we will have a chance to know the global partnership strategy of RIKEN.

I hope all participants have a fruitful discussion for the future success of Japan-EU STI cooperation.