

**“Japan’s Association to Horizon Europe:
New Opportunities to Enhance Collaboration in Research and Innovation
between the EU and Japan”**

**Organised by
the Delegation of the European Union to Japan**

**Thursday, 26 March 2026
16:00-17:30**

In December 2025, [the European Commission and the Government of Japan successfully concluded negotiations on Japan’s association to Pillar II of Horizon Europe](#), the EU’s flagship research and innovation funding programme. With the agreement expected to be signed in mid-2026, this milestone opens a new chapter in EU–Japan cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. Already today, entities based in Japan can lead and coordinate their own research projects under Horizon Europe, apply for and receive funding, and deepen collaboration with partners across the EU and other Associated Countries.

With an EU contribution of EUR 93.7 billion, complemented by contributions from soon 23 Associated Countries, Horizon Europe is the world’s largest and most internationally open civilian research and innovation programme. Its cross-sectoral and mission-oriented approach creates strong opportunities for alignment and synergy with Japan’s own research and innovation priorities, offering a powerful platform for joint solutions to global challenges.

The European Commission has recently announced the Horizon Europe’s calls for proposals for 2026–2027, mobilising EUR 14 billion to advance the EU’s strategic objectives. Key priorities include achieving climate neutrality, accelerating the uptake of artificial intelligence in research and innovation, and strengthening resilience in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

Against this backdrop, on the occasion of the visit of Ms. Cristina Russo, Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity, and International Cooperation, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation; European Commission, the seminar will bring together European and Japanese policymakers, researchers, and other science, technology, and innovation stakeholders to explore new opportunities for collaboration. Participants will discuss Japan’s association to Horizon Europe, identify concrete synergies and partnership pathways, and gain inspiration from successful examples of past cooperation under the Programme.

Agenda

Programme in English without interpretation

Master of Ceremony

Mr. Gijs Berends, Head of Science, Innovation, Digital, and Other EU Policies Section, Delegation of the EU to Japan

16:00-16:05

Welcome remarks

- Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan

16:05-16:20

Keynote addresses:

- Ms. Cristina Russo, Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity, and International Cooperation, and Chief Negotiator for Association to Horizon Europe; Directorate-General for Research and Innovation; European Commission
- Mr. Kyosuke Matsumoto, Ambassador, Deputy Director-General for Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

16:20-16:45

Remarks:

- Mr. Naohito Kimura, Deputy Secretary-General for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office
- Mr. Toshihide Fukui, Deputy Director-General of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
- Mr. Takuya Fukumoto, Deputy Director-General for Innovation Policy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
- Mr. Thomas Skordas, Deputy Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- Professor Motoko Kotani, Executive Director, Tohoku University

16:45-17:05 Collaboration Opportunities under the Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2026-2027:

- Ms. Fumiko Oda, National Contact Point for Horizon Europe in Japan - *General introduction on international participation in Horizon Europe*
- Ms. Emmanuelle Chauvin, International Cooperation Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission – *Novelties in Horizon Europe calls for proposals 2026-2027*

17:05-17:25 Testimonies on participation in Horizon Europe:

- Mr. Ben Smith, Counsellor for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Trade and Technology Office, Embassy of Norway to Japan – *Norway's participation in the Framework Programme as an Associated Country*
- Associate Professor Dr. Isao Shitanda, Faculty of Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science and Visiting Associate Professor Dr. Taku Ogura, Research Institute for Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science (Formerly Nikko Chemicals Co., Ltd. and Shiseido Co., Ltd.) – *GREENART project - practical lessons learned from conducting international collaborative research*

17:25-17:30 Closing remarks

- Ms. Cristina Russo, Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity, and International Cooperation, and Chief Negotiator for Association to Horizon Europe; Directorate-General for Research and Innovation; European Commission

17:30-19:00 Reception

