MCAA Asia Connect: "Konnichiwa Tokyo 2026"

Regional Meeting & 30th Anniversary Celebration of MSCA

Organizers: MCAA Chapters China, India, and Japan • **Partners:** MSCA GLOPOL

Dates: November 4–5, 2026 | **Venue:** Tech Tokyo Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan

Confirmed Keynote Speakers & Stakeholders: **Gijs Berends** (EU Delegation to Japan) • **Twan van Erp** (EU Delegation to India & Bhutan) • **Dr. Insa Ewert** (EU Delegation to Malaysia) • **Fumiko Oda** (NCP Horizon Europe) • **Dr. Judit Erika Magyar** (MSCA GLOPOL) • **Prof. Dr. Fan Mo** (MCAA Board / China) • **Prof. Dr. Eugenio Otal** (MCAA Board / Japan) • **Leave a Nest Co., Ltd.** • **Ryan Ginstrom** (Recursive Inc.) • **Alisher Abdulkhaev** (Kanaria Tech).

Day 1: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 – Innovation, Diplomacy & 30 Years of MSCA

Venue: Tech Tokyo Shibuya (Conference Hall) | **Focus:** Scientific Diplomacy, Academic-to-Venture Ecosystems, and Cultural Exchange.

Time	Session & Format	Details & Speakers
09:00 – 10:00	**Registration & Welcome**	Registration desk open; badge collection; deposit of regional sweets for the cultural exchange.
10:00 – 10:30	**Opening Ceremony & MSCA 30th Anniversary**	**Prof. Dr. Eugenio Otal (MCAA Board) & Regional Chapter Chairs**. Commemoration of 30 years of MSCA; historical milestones, international impact, and network consolidation.
10:30 – 11:15	**Opportunities for Japanese institutions in Horizon Europe**	**Fumiko Oda** (NCP for Horizon Europe in Japan) & **Dr. Judit Erika Magyar** (Regional Liaison Officer, MSCA GLOPOL). Pillar II.: Association and its impact; Cluster introductions & Pillar I.: MSCA participation in Japan; MSCA-GLOPOL activities.
11:15 – 12:00	**EU Diplomacy Keynote Addresses**	**Gijs Berends** (EU Delegation to Japan), **Twan van Erp** (EU Del. to India & Bhutan), **Dr. Insa Ewert** (EU Del. to Malaysia). Multilateral EU-Asia scientific diplomacy, bilateral research priorities, green/digital transitions, and mobility.
12:00 – 13:00	**Seated Networking Lunch (Japanese Bento)**	**All Participants**. Curated Japanese Bento Boxes served in a seated networking arrangement with thematic tables.
13:00 – 13:20	**Group Photo & Transition**	**All Participants**. Official commemorative 30th Anniversary group photograph at Tech Tokyo Shibuya.
13:20 – 14:10	**Innovation Ecosystem, Startups & Deep-Tech**	**Leave a Nest Tokyo**, **Ryan Ginstrom (Recursive)**, & **Alisher Abdulkhaev (Kanaria Tech)**. Deep-tech incubation, cutting-edge AI engineering, venture creation in Tokyo, and translating academic research.
14:10 – 14:40	**Coffee Break & Cultural Hometown Snack Exchange**	**All Participants**. Afternoon coffee and tea paired with regional sweets and snacks brought by delegates from their hometowns and chapters.
14:40 – 17:00	**Research Frontiers & Showcases (Oral Presentations)**	**MCAA Fellows & University Delegates**. Showcases across Deep Tech, Materials, Energy, AI, and Life Sciences (10 min talks × 12 speakers + opening & closing remarks).
17:00 – 17:15	**Day 1 Synthesis & Briefing**	Wrap-up of Day 1 outcomes, announcements, and logistics briefing for the cultural walk.
17:30 – 19:00	**Tokyo Cultural Exploration**	Guided group walk exploring local historical landmarks and vibrant neighborhoods in Tokyo.
19:15 – 21:30	**Networking Dinner: Traditional Monjayaki**	**All Participants**. Traditional Tokyo *Monjayaki* culinary experience. Informal hotplate dining, peer networking, and anniversary toast.

Day 2: Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Strategy & Field Immersion

Morning Venue: Tech Tokyo Shibuya | **Afternoon Venue:** Leave a Nest HQ (Iidabashi)

Focus: Third-Country Engagement, Asia-Pacific Regional Governance, and Field Immersion.

Time	Session & Format	Details & Speakers
09:00 – 09:15	**Day 2 Opening Remarks**	Recap of Day 1 achievements and overview of Day 2 strategic roadmap.
09:15 – 10:15	**Global Perspectives: Third Countries & Diplomacy**	**International Delegations (e.g., India, Argentina).** Global outreach of MSCA beyond Europe; capacity-building, South–South cooperation, and brain circulation strategies.
10:15 – 10:45	**Extended Coffee & Peer Networking**	Extended networking break for informal discussions and preparation for chapter working groups.
10:45 – 12:00	**MCAA Asia-Pacific Chairs Round Table**	**Chapter Chairs: Japan, India, China, Southeast Asia, Oceania.** *Strategic Working Session:* Defining permanent governance for MCAA Asia Connect, collaborative grant bids, and joint activities.
12:00 – 13:00	**Seated Networking Lunch (Japanese Bento)**	**All Participants.** Japanese Bento Box lunch and informal peer discussions prior to afternoon field immersion.
13:00 – 13:30	**Plenary Wrap-Up & Tokyo Roadmap**	**All Chapter Representatives & Stakeholders.** Adoption of the Tokyo 2026 Action Roadmap, working committee appointments, and 2027 host designation.
13:30 – 14:15	**Group Transit to Iidabashi**	**Registered In-Person Attendees.** Organized group commute via Tokyo Metro from Shibuya to Leave a Nest Headquarters (Iidabashi).
14:30 – 16:30	**Site Visit: Leave a Nest Tokyo HQ**	**Leave a Nest Leadership & Resident Founders.** Guided visit of deep-tech incubation facilities, prototyping lab tour, and round-table exchange with resident science entrepreneurs.
16:30	**Official Adjournment**	Formal closing of the regional meeting and bilateral informal departures.

Key Meeting Deliverables & Strategic Outputs

- **Tokyo 2026 Action Roadmap:** Formalization of the MCAA Asia Connect network, governing bylaws, and rotating secretariat across participating chapters.
- **Horizon Europe Integration:** Direct contact pathways established through NCP Japan and MSCA GLOPOL for joint MSCA Staff Exchanges and Pillar II consortium building.
- **Deep-Tech Translation Ecosystem:** Tangible connections forged between academic alumni, Leave a Nest incubation pipelines, and technology scale-up ventures.

Practical Information for Guests & Attendees

Main Venue:	Tech Tokyo Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan	**Site Visit (Day 2):**	Leave a Nest HQ, Iidabashi, Tokyo
Conference URL:	https://japanchapter-ux.github.io/mcaa-asia-tokyo-2026/	**Local Transit:**	Tokyo Metro / JR Yamanote Line (Shibuya)
Contact Lead:	japan.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu	**Wifi Access:**	High-speed attendee Wi-Fi provided on-site