

**EUROPEAN JAPAN EXPERTS ASSOCIATION (EJEA)  
JAPANESE-GERMAN CENTER BERLIN (JDZB)  
CONTEMPORARY ASIA RESEARCH CENTER AT MILAN UNIVERSITY**

**Considering that**

- At the 16<sup>th</sup> EU-Japan Summit Berlin, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in their Joint Press Statement summit leaders reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen the longstanding partnership between the EU and Japan;
- The EU and Japan sharing universal values and similar strategies to move towards a knowledge-based society, summit leaders stressed the importance of promoting innovation, which will enable them to (a) lead the world economy by technological competitiveness, (b) make contribution to tackling common global challenges such as climate change, environment and energy, and (c) bring prosperity to their peoples and beyond;
- Summit leaders adopted a paper on "Promoting Research and Innovation towards Prosperity", in order to identify the realms in which both parties can further strengthen cooperation in this field and decided to quickly intensify EU-Japan science and technology cooperation to ensure mutual sustainable prosperity and further deepen their global relationships;
- This paper states that for advanced economies, such as the EU and Japan, creativeness and ability to convert ideas and research findings into high quality products, services and new business models are key drivers for further development and that the EU and Japan share the common intention to strengthen their collaboration aiming at creating the best possible framework conditions for research and innovation, identifying best practices, promoting their use both in the private and the public sector, and establishing a favourable legal and regulatory policy environment that will promote and protect research findings and innovations;

**Reporting that**

- A conference on "EU-Japan Cooperation in Science and Innovation" was held on Friday, June 15, 2007 at the University of Milan;
- In depth discussion of cooperation experience and best practices at that conference led participants to confirm that a high potential for joint EU-Japan science and technology cooperation exists for the advantage of both sides in a great variety of topics of common interest like in the fields of energy technology, robotics, material sciences, e-learning;
- Those discussions made evident that there exists an insufficiently developed EU-Japan science and technology cooperation limited to only a few special topics, e.g. tsunami-research, supported by mobility funds/grants;
- Participants shared the view and deplore that the present, limited cooperation in Science & Technology reflects a general low level of tangible EU-Japan cooperation and that a number of issues of importance for both sides are presently not object of this cooperation such as science and technology at the service of non-proliferation and global security, energy efficiency and other key subjects addressing global challenges;

## Welcoming that

- Summit leaders are expecting a forthcoming initialling of the "Science and Technology Agreement" in the near future and have adopted the paper on "Promoting Research and Innovation Towards Prosperity";
- Through that Paper, summit leaders have subscribed to aiming at creating the best possible framework conditions for research and innovation, identifying best practices, promoting their use both in the private and the public sector, and establishing a favourable legal and regulatory policy environment that will promote and protect research findings and innovations.

**In subscribing to the content of the paper on "Promoting Research and Innovation towards Prosperity" have issued the following Recommendation to give substance to the Summit leaders pledge to quickly intensify EU-Japan science and technology cooperation.**

### Recommendation

- The mismatch of the different funding systems in EU and Japan is a substantial handicap for joint R&D and should be corrected as a priority.
- Mobility grants apart, modern, effective and powerful international and interdisciplinary joint research needs to be funded by grants for increasing research staff as well as for greater research means, from both sides.
- To overcome the current stagnation and to open up the high potential for joint EU-Japan R&D it is recommended that in particular
  - Pre-competitive joint R&D has to be facilitated and that as a priority their funding systems for joint R&D of the pre-competitive kind should be harmonised;
  - Grants for additional research staff appropriations and related staff expenses, for other resource appropriations and for mobility should be synchronised;
  - New programmes for the promotion and exchange of young researchers and post-graduates should be developed, promoted and long-time supported;
  - Optimal use is made of the facilities of EU programmes like the "7<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development", Lifelong Learning Programme, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme as well as of EU Member States' and regional R&D Programmes in the EU;
  - Japanese Government and Government supported programmes and Japanese regional government programmes should be open to equivalent and matching opportunities for European researchers and research, for joint research, participation in national and regional research programs and funding as well as joint research at company level.

**The undersigned submit this Recommendation to the Government of Japan, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Government, the Portuguese Government and to the Commission of the European Union for consideration and action in the interest of a strengthening of science and technology cooperation and of overall EU-Japan relations.**

Berlin, June 29, 2007, for the EUROPEAN JAPAN EXPERTS ASSOCIATION (EJEA), Prof. Dr. Dietrich Albert, Chairman of the Executive Committee

Berlin, June 29, 2007, for the JAPANESE-GERMAN CENTER BERLIN (JDZB), Dr. Friederike Bosse, Secretary General

Milan, June 29, 2007, for the CONTEMPORARY ASIA RESEARCH CENTER AT MILAN UNIVERSITY, Prof. Dr. Gianpiero Sironi (Vice Rector, The University of Milan)