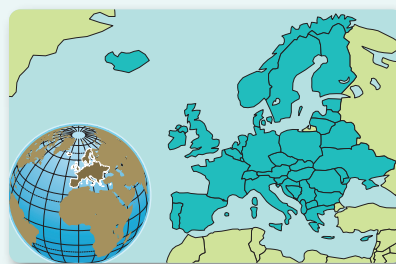


## Section 4

## Europe



## Overview

**(Importance of Europe)**

Europe has considerable influence on international public opinion, underpinned by such factors as language, culture and art, and the presence of major media and think tanks. In addition, Europe has a large economic presence, with the combined GDP of the 28 member states of the European Union (EU) accounting for about 24% of the world. As members of key international frameworks, such as the UN Security Council and G7, major European countries play an important role in establishing norms in the international community. Furthermore, Japan and Europe share fundamental values and principles such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and are deeply committed to free and open international order. Both parties have collaborated with each other based on the mutual relations with the United States for many years.

Europe is critical for Japan's implementation of foreign policy that "Takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map." In addition to maintaining bilateral relations with each European country, it is important that Japan further broadens Japan-Europe relations as a whole by strengthening cooperation with European regional institutions such as the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Organization for Security

and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and promoting collaboration with European regional frameworks, such as the Visegrad Group plus Japan (V4+Japan), the Nordic-Baltic Eight plus Japan (NB8+Japan) and GUAM countries plus Japan (GUAM + Japan).

**(Issues Faced by Europe)**

Europe is faced with various challenges, including instability in the Middle East and North Africa, unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants into Europe associated with it, a series of terrorist attacks in Paris and other cities, the Greece debt issue, the EU referendum in the UK, and other problems that have emerged as a result of enlargement and deepening integration of the EU.

**(Diplomatic Relations with Europe)**

Prime Minister Abe visited Elmau, Germany, in June, to attend the G7 Summit to have talks with other leaders. Also, taking the opportunity, he visited Ukraine for the first time as a Japanese Prime Minister. Following the attendance of the 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) Summit Meeting in Paris, France, in November and December, Prime Minister Abe visited Luxembourg for the first time as a Japanese Prime Minister in the context of the bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Kishida visited France, Belgium and the UK in mid-January to have meetings with the foreign ministers of those countries. He also held Japan-EU Foreign Ministers'

Meeting and met with the NATO Secretary General. In November, the Foreign Minister visited Luxembourg to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting. As shown in these examples, mutual visits at the leader's and foreign minister's levels took place very actively between Japan and European countries and institutions. These visits not only strengthened the relations between Japan and each country and institution, but also built relationships of trust at the summit and foreign minister's level. Through these opportunities, understanding from European countries and institutions on Japan's stance and efforts was enhanced on a broad range of issues, including security, economic, and global issues, and concrete cooperation between Japan and Europe was advanced. For instance, on the security front, Japan agreed with NATO and the EU respectively, to continue close cooperation. Also, Japan has strengthened cooperation in the area of security and defense with the UK and France. With regard to economy, six rounds of negotiations on the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) were held in 2015. At the Japan-EU summit meeting, which was held on the occasion of the G20 Antalya Summit in November 2015, the two leaders committed to accelerating the negotiations, aiming to reach agreement in principle at the earliest possible time in 2016. At the Summit meeting, the leaders have agreed to cooperate further and work on a range of issues Europe is facing right now, including counter-terrorism and the influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa, which pose problems for the entire global community.

In addition, the Government of Japan launched the "MIRAI Program," to invite students from countries throughout

Europe. Japan is pursuing a broad range of cooperative activities with the EU and countries throughout Europe in such fields as education, culture, as well as science and technology with a view to maintaining a multi-layered and close relationship through communication of Japan's attractiveness and promotion of mutual understanding.

## 1 Situation of European Region

### (1) European Union (EU)

The EU is a political and economic entity consisting of 28 member states with a total population of about 500 million that generates about 24% of the world's GDP. Sharing basic values and principles, the EU is an important partner for Japan in addressing global issues.

#### A Japan-EU Relations

In 2015, there were major developments toward strengthening Japan-EU relations in a comprehensive manner. In particular, two Japan-EU summit meetings were held during the year, which strengthened the close bonds of trust among the leaders.

In May, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Japan-EU Summit Meeting was held in Tokyo with the participation of President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and other European Commissioners. At this meeting, both leaders shared the view to further accelerate the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and the Japan-EU/EPA, as well as to strengthen cooperation in diverse areas such as counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, science and technology, oceans and seas, outer space and cyberspace. In November, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with European Commission President Juncker, on the occasion of the G20 Antalya Summit.



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Japan-EU Summit (joint press conference) (May 29, Tokyo; photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

At this meeting, both leaders confirmed the importance of the SPA and EPA negotiations. Concerning the EPA negotiations, they shared the view to continue to make their utmost efforts to reach agreement in principle on the EPA at the earliest possible time in 2016. In this context, six rounds of Japan-EU EPA negotiations (see 3-3-1) and four rounds of Japan-EU SPA negotiations were held during 2015.

In January Foreign Minister Kishida visited Belgium and had talks with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy /Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini and other officials, agreeing to collaborate to further strengthen Japan-EU relations, while forging a relationship with the new leadership. The Foreign Minister also met with High Representative Mogherini at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Lubeck) in April and the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in November, where they agreed to closely cooperate on the Iranian nuclear issue and the Ukraine crisis.

## **B** Recent Development of the EU

As a step toward expansion and deepening of European integration, Lithuania became the 19<sup>th</sup> country to introduce the Euro in

January 2015. On the other hand, the influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe surged, which prompted the EU to take the issue seriously and express their determination to work in solidarity to resolve the situation. In November, an international summit to discuss migration and refugee issues between EU and African leaders took place in November at Valletta, Malta (Valletta Summit for migration), and a Political Declaration and Action Plan for an early solution of the issue were issued. At the EU-Turkey Summit meeting held in Brussels at the end of the month, the leaders committed to continuing humanitarian assistance to Turkey to resolve migration issues. They also agreed to revitalize the Turkey's accession negotiations with the EU, committing to advance the preparation for negotiations starting in the year 2016.

In July, EU High Representative Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif released the final agreement (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) between with EU3 (UK, France, and Germany) +3 (U.S., China, and Russia) and Iran, playing an important role in a solution of the issue. In respect of the Ukraine crisis, the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Ukraine Association Council meeting was held in December. The officials confirmed the significance of cooperation in a solution for the issue and welcomed the progress in the situation.

In the security area, in June, EU High Representative Mogherini's initiative led to the European Council's decision to develop an EU Global Strategy as the EU's comprehensive security strategy.

Regarding the economy, a moderate economic recovery is holding up, supported by the low price of crude oil, a weak Euro, and monetary easing policy throughout the Euro area. In efforts for sustainable growth

by the European Commission, progress took place mainly in policies to stimulate investments, including the establishment of a legal framework for “Investment Plan for Europe,” the selection of investment projects, and the development of action plan for building a Capital Markets Union. Concerning the downside risks to the economy, there was serious concern about impacts of the Greece debt crisis on the European economy from the beginning of the year. The situation, however, has stabilized since the Government of Greece and the EU side reached an agreement on support program in August.

## (2) United Kingdom

In the election of the House of Commons held in May, the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister David Cameron won a majority of the seats and his second administration was established as a single-party majority government of the Conservatives. Prime Minister Cameron intends to hold a referendum on June 23, 2016, on whether to remain in the EU or to leave. He aims to accomplish a reform of the EU till then and to remain in the EU. In November, Prime Minister Cameron submitted a plan of the EU reform consisting of the four pillars; “Economic governance (protecting the rights of non-euro members states, etc.),” “Competitiveness (Deregulations, etc.),” “Sovereignty (recognition that reference to “ever closer union” does not apply to the UK, and greater powers for national parliaments),” and “Social benefits and free movement (prevention of abuse of freedom of movement within the EU, restrictions on welfare benefits to immigrants).” Based on this reform plan, the UK hold negotiations with the EU and the European Council and reached an agreement at its meeting in February. Also, deciding



Prince William, communicating with local people in the quake-hit area (February 28, Fukushima; photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

how much power to devolve from the central government to Scotland is an important issue for the administration.

Both Japan and the UK have been strengthening bilateral ties through policy coordination and exchanges at various levels including prime ministers and foreign ministers. Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Cameron held summit meetings on the occasion of the G7 Summit in June and the G20 Summit in November. Foreign Minister Kishida met with UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on the occasion of the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in April. The Fourth Japan-UK Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue was held in August and the Fifth was held in January 2016 respectively in Tokyo. In February 2015, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) visited Japan. The Duke of Cambridge, together with Prime Minister Abe, visited the region affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. He was invited by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress for luncheon, and communicated with many people. In August, Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow visited Japan. He paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe and exchanged views with Speaker of the Houses of Representatives and the President of the House of Councilors.

In recent years, security and defense cooperation has been advanced between Japan and the UK. In November, the UK Government released a new “National Security Strategy (NSS)” and “Strategic Defense and Security Review (SDSR),” identifying Japan as “ally” and the “closest security partner in Asia.” Following the First UK-Japanese Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting held in London in January 2015, the second Meeting took place in Tokyo in January 2016. In this meeting, both parties confirmed that they would promote negotiations toward an early conclusion of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).

### (3) France

With an unemployment rate exceeding 10%, the Hollande administration is working for economic recovery and job creation, aiming at fiscal consolidation, and promoting such measures as the liberalization of economic activities. The Government of France has been strengthening counter-terrorism measures in the wake of terrorist attacks against the office of a newspaper and others in Paris in January, and the simultaneous terror attacks in Paris in November causing 130 casualties. Regarding the issue of refugees coming from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe, the ruling Socialist Party announced that France would provide assistance including intake of 24,000 refugees over the two years. However, the ruling party lost in the prefectural assembly election in March and in the provincial election in December, in which the Front National Party that insists on capping the influx of migrants increased its seats.

On the diplomatic front, the Government of France intensified air raids in Syria due to the involvement of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the terrorist

attacks. Also, France hosted the 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) Summit Meeting after the terrorist attacks in November. France demonstrated its leadership in adopting the Paris Agreement and played a significant role in taking measures for climate change.

As for its relations with Japan, Foreign Minister Kishida visited France and had a talk with French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius in January. In March, the second Japan-France Foreign and Defense Ministers’ Meeting was held in Tokyo. Both sides signed an agreement concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology and confirmed further cooperation in the fields of security and defense. In October, Prime Minister Valls visited Japan, sharing the view to make greater cooperation in such fields as innovation, Africa and nuclear power. Taking this opportunity, the “Japan-France Innovation Year” was launched. In November, Prime Minister Abe visited France to attend the COP21 and held a meeting with President Hollande and Prime Minister Valls. They confirmed cooperation on such areas as counter-terrorism and climate change. Also, Prime Minister Abe laid flowers at the Bataclan theater, which was one of the sites of multiple terrorist attacks in Paris, in order to demonstrate solidarity with France.

### (4) Germany

As the chair of the G7 Summit in 2015, Germany held the Elmau Summit in June, leading the discussions about the G7 countries’ response to the Ukraine crisis, situation in the Middle East and other issues. As a member of the Normandy format (Ukraine, Germany, France, and Russia), Germany has been proactively working on stabilization

## Other European Regions

Under the a framework of "Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) + Japan," Japan is advancing collaboration in such fields as active participation by women, and innovation, with the aim of strengthening cooperation with Nordic and the Baltic states. Taking the opportunity of " World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW! 2015)" held in Tokyo in August, a "NB8+Japan" Meeting on active participation by women" was held.

### Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8)

#### [Benelux countries]

**The Netherlands:** In November, PM Mark Rutte visited Japan. PM Abe and PM Rutte agreed to characterize the bilateral relations as a "strategic partnership." They agreed to strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including the consolidation of the rule of law, security, disarmament and non-proliferation, cybersecurity, and agriculture/horticulture. They also issued a joint statement that serves as a guideline for cooperation in the future.

**Belgium:** In January, FM Kishida visited Belgium and had talks with Deputy PM and FM Renders. In May, PM Michel visited Japan. He had an audience with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, had a meeting with PM Abe, and co-hosted an investment seminar with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), which thus promoted bilateral relations between Japan and Belgium. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the two countries decided to celebrate the "150th Anniversary of Japan-Belgium Friendship" from December 2015 through December 2016 and to organize a variety of commemorative events.

**Luxembourg:** Luxembourg assumed the EU presidency in the latter half of 2015. In July, PM Bettel visited Japan and issued a Joint Statement on Economic Relations at the summit meeting with PM Abe. In line with this Statement, the Japan Business Federation visited Luxembourg in October. In November, the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held, in which FM Kishida also participated and had a meeting with FM Asselborn. In December, PM Abe visited Luxembourg on a bilateral basis for the first time as a Japanese PM, having a summit meeting with PM Bettel and paying a courtesy call on H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri. In the summit meeting, both leaders shared their views to advance cooperation in UN Security Council reform, counter-terrorism measures, and other areas.

In November, the 6th "V4+ Japan" Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in Luxembourg. In this Meeting, they exchanged opinions regarding the situations in East Asia, the Middle East, and Ukraine. Both sides highly valued the framework of "V4 + Japan" which has generated particular achievements in fields including ODA and science and technology. They also agreed to promote cooperation further as a framework between partners that share the fundamental values.

**Poland:** In February President Komorowski visited Japan, having a summit meeting with PM Abe. They released a joint statement to upgrade the bilateral relations to the strategic partnership.

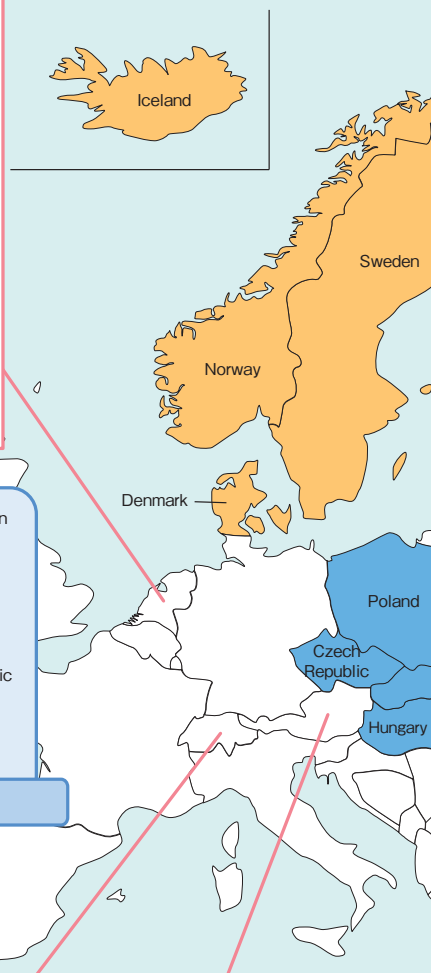
**Slovakia:** Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Lajcak visited Japan in November, having a meeting with FM Kishida. The two ministers agreed in principle to introduce a working holiday program between the countries.

### Visegrad 4 (V4)

**Portugal:** As a result of the parliamentary election in October, the ruling alliance consisting of the Social Democratic Party and the Popular Party failed to gain a majority. A new administration led by Antonio Costa, the leader of Socialist party, was inaugurated. In relation with Japan, PM Passos Coelho visited Japan for the first time in 25 years as an incumbent prime minister in March, having a summit meeting with PM Abe. They shared views to promote security cooperation, in particular, focusing on maritime affairs.

**Switzerland:** Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Burkhalter visited Japan to attend the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in March, having talks with FM Kishida. It was a follow-up meeting after Mr. Burkhalter (then concurrently serving as President) visited Japan in 2014.

**Austria:** The 4th Japan-Austria Committee for Issues of the Future was held in Tokyo in October. The discussion topics covered security, international monetary structures, declining birthrates and graying society.



**[Nordic Countries]**

**Sweden:** In June, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado visited Sweden to attend the wedding ceremony between Prince Carl Philip and Sofia Hellqvist. In September, Speaker of the Parliament of Sweden Ahlin and bipartisan parliament members visited Japan and had a courtesy call on PM Abe. Also, active high-level visits at the minister level took place between the countries.

**Denmark:** In March, Crown Prince Frederik and Princess Mary visited Japan. They attended a lunch with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and a dinner with Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess. The year 2017 will mark the 150th Anniversary since diplomatic relations between Japan and Denmark were established.

**[Baltic Countries]**

**Estonia:** High-level visits continued to be seen with Estonia, including visits by Minister of Cabinet Office for Special Missions Yamaguchi in May and Economic Revitalization Minister Amari in October. In December, the second Consultation on Cybersecurity was held.

**Latvia:** FM Rinkevics visited Japan in October. During the ministerial meeting with FM Kishida, they discussed regional situations including Ukraine and cooperation via the framework of "NBB + Japan".

**Lithuania:** Commemorating the 75th anniversary since the former Vice Consul to Kaunas Chiune Sugihara issued Japan Transit Visas for Jewish refugees in 1940, memorial plates were set in place in September at two locations in Kaunas, the places associated with the visa issuance.

**Belarus:** In May State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiuchi visited the country. In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muto had talks with Foreign Minister Makei at the meetings of OSCE Foreign Ministerial Council.

**GUAM**

In December, the Japan-GUAM Foreign Ministerial Meeting was held at the OSCE Foreign Ministerial Council in Belgrade, where the "Japan-GUAM Cooperation Program" was signed.

**Moldova:** Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Sula visited Japan in August, and Special Advisor to the PM Kimura visited Moldova in September. The Embassy of Moldova in Japan has opened in December, while the Embassy of Japan in Moldova has opened in January 2016.

**Bulgaria:** Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Bulgaria in August, having talks with Vice Prime Minister Kuneva and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Todorova.

**Cyprus:** Cyprus has been divided between Greek Cypriots in the south and Turkish Cypriots in the north since 1974. A new, pro-unity Turkish Cypriot leader, Akinci was elected in April, 2015. The negotiation for reunification resumed after that and some progress has been made so far.

**[West Balkan States]**

Japan has a significant interest in the peace and development of the West Balkan region that affects stability in Europe and the world. The year 2015 saw many high-level visits between Japan and West Balkan states. From this region, Albanian FM Bushati (April) and Macedonian FM Poposki (October) visited Japan. At talks with FM Kishida, Japan stated that the country would support and assist the policy of the two countries to join the EU. In June, Croatian PM Milanovic visited Japan. At talks with PM Abe, he stated that he expressed his respect to Croatia, for overcoming the ethnic conflict at the time of independence, and for realizing EU accession in 2013. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in July, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muto visited Slovenia in November and Serbia in December. Discussions were held to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena. Since August 2015, the number of refugees who flowed into Europe from the Middle East and North Africa via the West Balkan region has surged. In these circumstances, Japan has decided to provide urgent humanitarian aid via an international agent amounting to 1.28 million US dollars to Serbia, Macedonia, and other states. The Government of Japan is now implementing aid to those non-members of EU that cannot expect to make use of the EU's safety net.

**Greece:** The Tsipras Administration, which was established after the general election in January, 2015, called for a re-examination of the austerity measures imposed by the EU, IMF and other creditors as a condition for financial support. This led to a stalemate in the negotiations for bailout and caused a fear of Greek default and exit from the Euro zone. However, Greece and the creditors were able to reach an agreement on the new bailout program in August. The Tsipras Administration has been implementing structural reforms including austerity measures since then, following the previous administration.

of Ukraine situation. In spite of the surging refugees, Chancellor Angela Merkel did not put quotas on the number of refugees entering Germany in 2015. The number continued to rise, totaling about 1.1 million refugees entering Germany throughout the year.

Also, Germany set forth a stance of actively contributing to the peace and stability of the international society. In response to the simultaneous terrorist attacks that took place in Paris in November, the German Bundestag approved deployment of the Federal Armed Forces to support military actions against ISIL in December.

Regarding the economy, Germany maintains a stable economy even after the European debt crisis and functions as a driving force of the European economy. In the area of manufacturing, Germany developed the “Industry 4.0” strategy that aims for more optimized and efficient production by connecting factories and companies, using common software. Germany has been increasing its economic influence in the international society.

As for its relations with Japan, Chancellor Merkel visited Japan in March, met with Prime Minister Abe and agreed to deepen cooperation in the international arena, such as issues on regional situations, Security Council reform, disarmament, and non-proliferation. Also, as the current and next-term chairs of the G7 Summit meetings, the two countries need to maintain close cooperation in dealing with various global issues. To this end, the two sides had multiple summit and foreign ministers’ meetings by utilizing occasions at the international conferences such as G20, after the Elmau Summit, which deepened the trusting relationships and increased the closeness between the two countries.

## (5) Italy and Spain

In Italy, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi took office in February 2014, and has been continuously engaged in a series of structural reforms, ranging from revising election laws, revising the Constitution that would allow reforming the Senate, and improving the labor market. In February 2015, President Sergio Mattarella assumed office.

Expo Milano 2015 was held from May to October with the slogan “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life,” attracting 21.5 million visitors. Japan took part in this expo with the theme of “Coexisting Diversity.” The Japanese pavilion proved popular, attracting 2.28 million visitors, and winning the gold award for the best exhibition design.

As for relations with Japan, Prime Minister Renzi and his spouse visited Japan in August. He and his spouse were received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and Prime Minister Renzi had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Foreign Minister Kishida had a talk with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Paolo Gentiloni when he attended the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in April. The year 2016 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Italy. Taking this opportunity, both countries will further advance cooperation.

The Rajoy administration of Spain has been working on fiscal and structural reform and its economy is making a gradual recovery. However, the approval ratings for the ruling party, “Partido Popular (People’s Party),” and the largest opposition party, “Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE),” have declined due to the high unemployment rate of young people and allegations of illegal fund operation. In December the Spanish general elections for both houses were held at the expiration



## Column

## Japan Pavilion won Gold Award at the Expo Milano 2015

teamLab founder ● Toshiyuki Inoko

teamLab took charge of two spaces called “HARMONY” and “DIVERSITY” in the Japan Pavilion at the Expo Milano 2015. “HARMONY” showed four seasons of terraced rice fields through a new immersive experience type visual space. In the “DIVERSITY” space, various pictures of Japanese food floated down in a digital waterfall. The audience was able to download and take home these images and their detailed information via smartphone by touching the floating pictures. By connecting a waterfall, as a symbolic art which could provide experience for the people in the same space simultaneously, to smartphones, we took on a challenge to realize the coexistence of sharing an excitement and convenience of accessing to information.

At the Expo, the Japan Pavilion was awarded Gold Award in the category for “exhibition design” for the first time in history. The harmony between nature and technology was said to be one of the reasons that led us to the Gold Award. Also, in the Pavilion Award, given by an American company EXHIBITOR Magazine, Inc., “HARMONY” was awarded “Best Presentation,” which we think greatly contributed to winning of the Gold Award.

To talk about “HARMONY” a little more, “paddy field” which is the original landscape of Japanese food, and typically represented by terraced rice fields, was developed in places where there is a difference in height, such as middle- and up-stream basins. It was also created by the coexistence of humankind and nature. In order to express that paddy fields were developed in places where there is a “difference in height” and to display “humankind living in coexistence with nature,” we filled the space with many screens representing rice grown at various heights from the level of waist to below knees, thereby creating an interactive visual space where the vision infinitely extends at a height between waist to knees. Images on the screens continue to change in accordance with the position and movement of people. You can experience the four seasons of Japan’s nature by entering the visual space as if you are stepping into a rice field.

Behind the scenes, there is the notion of “Spatial Objects,” which is the art concept proposed by the teamLab. To put it another way, it is a concept that you can go into a three-dimensional object, while still recognizing it as a three-dimensional object, by a new digital representation. Under such a new concept, we wanted people all over the world to experience a completely new feeling of immersion allowing them to go inside a physical work.



“HARMONY”



“DIVERSITY”



Japan Pavilion

of terms of office this period. The ruling People’s Party failed to win a majority of seats. Following the result of elections to the Parliament of Catalonia in September, pro-independence leader, Carles Puigdemont,

assumed office as a newly elected governor. Attention should be continuously paid to the movement of this Province toward independence.

In relations with Japan, there has been

continuous momentum of exchanges which was increased on the occasion of the “400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of exchanges between Spain and Japan” between 2013 and 2014. The year 2015 saw a more than 25% increase in the number of travelers between two countries at the end of September, compared with the year-earlier period.

## (6) Ukraine

In February, the leaders of Ukraine, Germany, France and Russia agreed on a “Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements” including an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all heavy weapons. Although fighting intensified temporarily (in June and August) with sporadic battles after March, violations of the ceasefire decreased on the whole. The ceasefire was generally maintained in September and October. However, the number of ceasefire violation cases again increased from November to December.

In February, in response to Ukrainian economic downturn triggered by protracted conflicts, the IMF approved a support program to contribute approximately 17,500 million US dollars to Ukraine over four years. Donor states/organizations including Japan continued their economic and financial assistance to the country. Supported by the global community, Ukraine has been working for a range of domestic reforms, including anticorruption measures and economic reform.

Regarding diplomacy, Ukraine is paving the way towards European integration with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) between the EU and Ukraine entering into force on January 1, 2016. On the other hand, the natural gas issue remains unsolved with Russia. By reversing flows of gas from Europe, Ukraine

is engaging in the diversification of energy supply sources.

Regarding relations with Japan, high-level communications increasingly took place; Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin visited Japan in March, and Prime Minister Abe visited Ukraine in June (the first-ever visit by an incumbent Japanese Prime Minister), and a Japan-Ukraine Summit Meeting was held in September. Bilateral relations also steadily advanced, with the Japan-Ukraine Investment Agreement coming into force in November, and the Third Meeting of the Japan-Ukraine Joint Committee for the Cooperation to Advance Aftermath Response to Accidents at Nuclear Power Stations was held. Regarding Japan's assistance to Ukraine, Japan pledged additional aid of 300 million US dollars in January. In August, the Government of Japan dispatched an expert to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), supporting Ukraine in both financial and personnel aspects.

## 2 Cooperation with European Regional Organizations

### (1) Cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO is a military alliance aimed at collective defense of its 28 member countries. It also works on assistance to Afghanistan, anti-piracy measures off the coast of Somalia and other crisis management, prevention of conflict and stabilization after conflict outside the area in order to eliminate direct threats to the security of the territory and people of the member countries. In Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) retreated by the end of 2014, and the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) program started with an aim to aid capacity building



Foreign Minister Kishida talking with NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg (January 20, Belgium; NATO headquarters)

for the Afghan security forces from January 2015.

Japan and NATO are partners sharing basic values. Japan values cooperation with NATO in the context of practicing “Proactive Contribution to Peace.” In accordance with the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Program (IPCP) that was developed upon Prime Minister Abe’s visit to NATO Headquarters<sup>1</sup> in May 2014, concrete cooperation between Japan and NATO has been promoted. Including the visit by Foreign Minister Kishida to NATO in January 2015, Japan has participated in a range of events, such as the NATO Crisis Management Exercise (CMX), Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR) and a cyberspace related exercise as an observer. In September, NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow visited Japan for a Japan-NATO Seminar to talk about the Japan-Europe security environment.

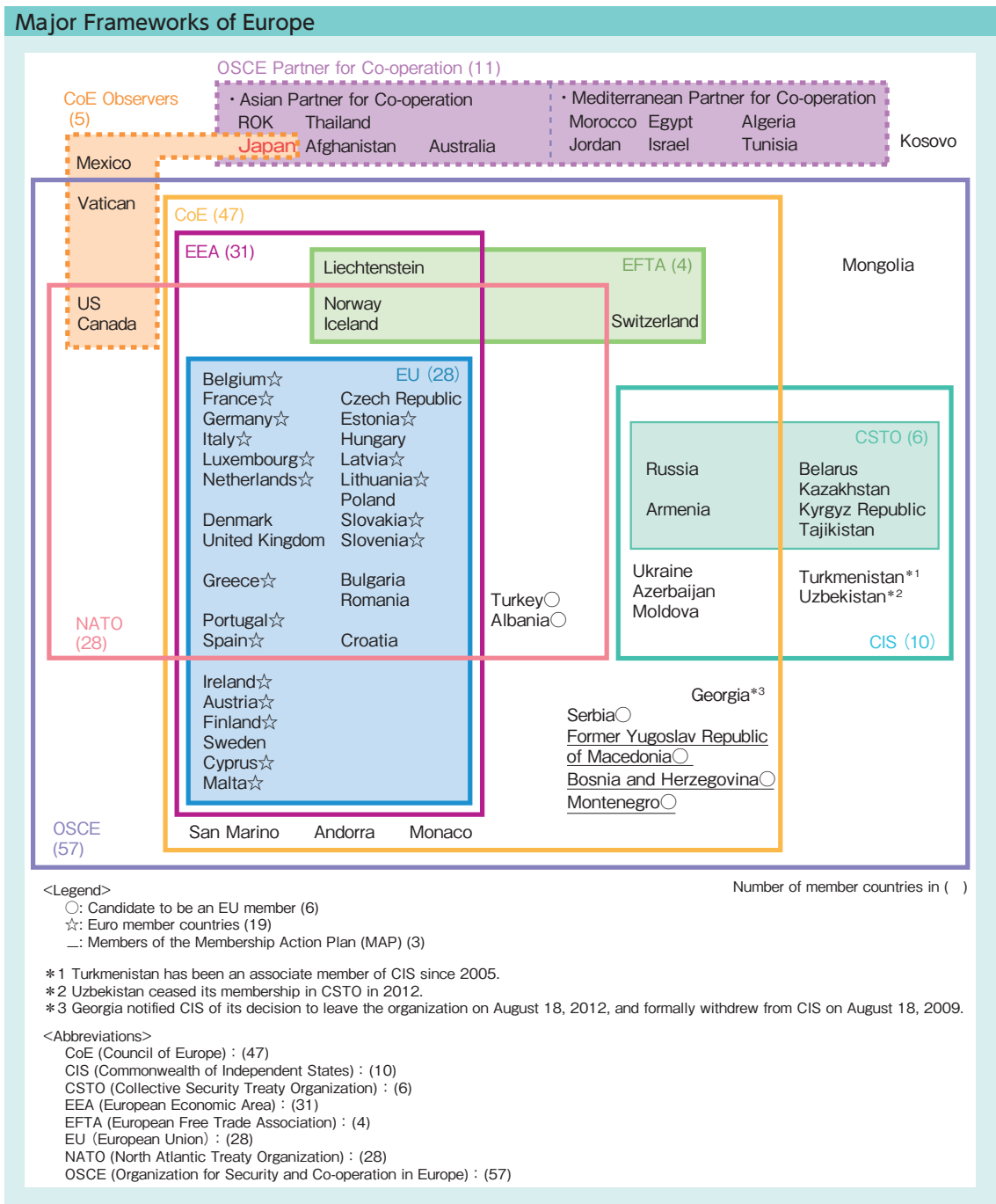
Japan also cooperates with NATO for stabilization of Afghanistan. Specifically, in addition to financial contribution to the development of Afghanistan, Japan supports

activities of healthcare and education for the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) through contribution to the NATO ANA Trust Fund. Japan also contributes to disposal of unexploded bomb in Azerbaijan through the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP).

## (2) Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

OSCE, which has 57 member countries from Europe, Central Asia and North America, is a regional security organization that aims to prevent conflicts and build confidence in the region through a comprehensive approach. Japan has been involved in OSCE activities as an “Asian Partner for Co-operation” since 1992. OSCE has been playing an important role for stabilization of the situation in Ukraine. Japan financially supports the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and has dispatched an expert to the SMM since August 2015. In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoji Muto attended the Foreign Ministers’ meeting held in Belgrade (Serbia), where he stated that the security environment of Europe and Asia is indivisible. He also mentioned the importance of compliance with the basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the current situations of Ukraine and the East and South China Seas, and response to them and issued of terrorism, and refugees. Under the “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, he expressed a firm determination to work with OSCE and member states for the peace and stability of the international community. Japan also supports other OSCE activities including

<sup>1</sup> In January 2007, Prime Minister Abe visited NATO headquarters for the first time as a Japanese prime minister; this is the second visit by a Japanese prime minister.



terrorism prevention by strengthening border management through contribution to Border

Management Staff College<sup>2</sup> and support to female entrepreneurs in Central Asia.

<sup>2</sup> Border Management Staff College (BMSC) provides training and education related to the latest concerns about border management, especially a comprehensive approach to safety, democratization reforms, and measures against trans-border threats to border management staff from OSCE members and partner countries.

### (3) Cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE)

CoE is a regional organization of 47 member countries and fulfills an important role in establishing international standards in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As the only observer from Asia, Japan makes active contributions to various activities of CoE. Japan financially supported and dispatched experts “the Octopus

Conference 2015” which aims at promoting international cooperation to respond to cybercrime held in June (in Strasbourg, France). Japan also dispatched an expert to the fourth “World Forum for Democracy” (in Strasbourg) held in November.

#### Column

#### Seeking peace

~ A dispatch to the post of reporting officer for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine ~

The reporting officer of OSCE SMM ● Gosuke Horiguchi

A green breadbasket of wheat fields stretching as far as the horizon. Ukraine with such a scenery suddenly became a battlefield. Since April 2014, when the fighting started in the east of Ukraine, more than 9,000 people, including civilians, were killed and more than a million people were driven from their homes. Large-scale conflict was no longer seen after the ceasefire agreement reached in February 2015, but an unpredictable situation still continues with fighting occurring locally and sporadically.

Under such circumstances, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has dispatched approximately 700 civilian monitors to locations all over Ukraine, mainly to the eastern part, to monitor ceasefire regime and verify withdrawal of weapons. The Mission also facilitates adherence to the ceasefire to enable repair to essential infrastructure such as water and power supply facilities destroyed during shelling and demining of mines and unexploded ordnance.

I have been working as a reporting officer for the OSCE SMM since August 2015. The reporting officer compiles the reports from field teams in different regions of Ukraine into one report, which is a condensed version of all the reports. A report includes the status of implementation of the ceasefire agreement such as when and where shooting and shelling occurred and whether weapons has been withdrawn or not, as well as the social, economic and humanitarian situation in the conflict area, including the livelihood of residents. Daily reports, made by reporting officers, are published six times a week and available on the OSCE website. I found my work responsible and rewarding as any mistake is not allowed in my reports touching many people’s eyes.

I am the only Japanese national in the OSCE SMM. An Asian is an extremely rare presence in the OSCE where European and North American countries are participating, but I think I have been able to provide diversity to the world’s largest regional security organization, by presenting a different viewpoint. Furthermore, Japan shares with OSCE commitment such common values as the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In Ukraine, these values on which we had put importance so far were challenged. Such a situation is also present in Asia, where Japan is located. The situation over Ukraine is by no means a problem only in Europe, but presents an extremely important issue for the entire international community, including Asia. From this point of view, Japan is contributing toward the recovery of peace and stability in Ukraine, providing a financial support of two million euros to the OSCE SMM.

I hope I could do my bit for restoration of peace in the green breadbasket of wheat fields stretching as far as the horizon.



At the office of the OSCE SMM