**“Japan-U.S.-Europe Business Seminar”**

**～ Ringing in a Renewed Economic Relationship between Japan, the U.S. and Europe**

**Pioneered by Mutual Investments ～**

March 24th, 2017

Under the rapidly changing current international environment, and in the midst of upsurging anti-globalism and protectionism, promoting free trade and investment has become increasingly important as a driving force of growth of the world economy. In cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization(JETRO) , the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) has been proactively engaging in and contributing to expanding both inbound investment in Japan and outbound investment from Japan including by establishing "Contact points for Direct Investment towards Japan" at 126 overseas diplomatic missions, who gather relevant information and provide support for expanding foreign direct investment in Japan, while supporting outbound investment of Japanese businesses through regular activities of overseas diplomatic missions.

 We hereby inform you that MOFA is organizing the "Japan-U.S.-Europe Business Seminar" under the main theme of further expansion of investment in Japan, the U.S. and Europe. In this seminar, discussions will be held with the participation of senior government officials of Japan, the U.S. and Europe, experts and business leaders, focusing on the economic trends and the prospect of investment expansion in Japan, the U.S. and Europe, as well as efforts for and challenges to improving the business environment in Japan and the advantages of investment in local regions of Japan.

**◎ Date/Time**　 ： March 27th, 2017(Monday)　14：30 – 18：05 (Doors open at 14：00)

\*Networking reception will follow this seminar (18：30 – 20：00)

**◎ Venue** ： The Tokai University Club (Kasumigaseki Building 35th Floor)

　　　　　　　　　　　 \*Access Map: <http://www.tokai35.jp/en/>

**◎ Organizer**  ： Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

**◎ Co-organizer**  ： Cabinet Office (CAO)，Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)，

The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)，and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

**◎ Capacity**　 ： Around 150 people

* **Program** (subject to change)　Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation will be available

14：30　Opening remarks　 Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs

14：40　Keynote Speech ①　 Lewis Libby, Senior Vice President of Hudson Institute

15：00　Keynote Speech ②　 Markus J. Beyrer, CEO of BusinessEurope

15：30　Panel Discussion 1: “Recent Economic Trends in Japan, the U.S. and Europe and Prospect of the Further Expansion of Mutual Investments”

Moderator : Yoshiji Nogami, President of JIIA

Panelists : Shujiro Urata, Professor at Waseda University

　　　　　 Yasushi Akahoshi, President, JETRO

Nicholas Hill, Economic Minister-Counselor, U.S. Embassy Tokyo

Markus J. Beyrer, CEO of BusinessEurope

16：30　Panel Discussion 2: “Toward Improvement of Business Environment - Progress and Next steps –”

　 Moderator : Kanji Yamanouchi, Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau, MOFA

　　 　Panelists : Nobuo Kagomiya, Deputy Director-General for Economic and Fiscal management, CAO

　　　　　　　 Katsunori Nemoto, Managing Director, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)

Christopher LaFleur, President of American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ)

　　　　　　　　 Danny Risberg, Chairman of European Business Council in Japan (EBC)

17：20　Panel Discussion 3: “Foreign Direct Investment in Local Regions of Japan – Mutually Beneficial

Relationship : Benefits for Investors and Revitalization of Local Communities –“

　 　Moderator : Reiko Akiike, Senior Partner & Managing Director, The Boston Consulting Group

　 　Panelists : Kyoichi Suzuki, Director for Investment Facilitation, Trade and Investment Facilitation Division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, METI

Yoshitaka Kinoshita, President, Micron Memory Japan, Inc.

　　　　　　 　Isao Nishiguchi, Director for Industrial Investment Promotion Division, Department of Employment and Economic affairs, Mie Prefectural Government of Japan

 Koichi Yamagishi, Director of International Affairs Division, Ibaraki Prefectural Government of Japan

18：00　Closing remarks :

Toshinao Nakagawa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

　 　18：30　Networking Reception　( – 20：00)

　 　　　　　Opening remarks by Shunsuke Takei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

　 Remarks by Francesco Fini, Minister/Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of European Union to Japan

　　　　　 　Toast by Christopher LaFleur, President of American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ)