

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
NINTH MEETING OF JAPAN-FRANCE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON CO-OPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Under the terms of the *Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of France*, the ninth meeting of the Japan - France Joint Committee on Co-operation in Science and Technology took place in Tokyo on the 21st of February, 2017.

The Joint Committee was co-chaired by Mr. Takeshi NAKANE, Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Ms. Anne GRILLO, Director of Culture, Education, Research and Network coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. The Joint Committee was held with participation of high-level representatives from the relevant ministries, funding agencies and research institutions of both countries and the Embassy of France in Japan.

The participants in the Joint Committee exchanged views on science, technology and innovation policy, international collaboration and related issues. Particular focus was given to new developments such as the Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan in Japan and "Society 5.0" proposed in that plan as well as the Strategic Agenda "France Europe 2020" in France. They agreed that the Japan-France Innovation Year had resulted in concrete cooperation in a variety of fields.

The Committee welcomed progress being made in the Fields of Computational Science and Computer Science, with the signature of the *Implementing Arrangement between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research of the French Republic* and the *Cooperation Program between the National Research and Development Institute RIKEN of Japan and the Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)*.

The Joint Committee noted recent activities and the progress with collaboration in the fields of life science (including silver economy), environment (including natural resilience, clean energy, and green innovation), agriculture, information and communication technologies (ICT), robotics and marine Science.

With regard to the collaborative schemes for science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation, representatives from Japan and France reviewed the valuable research collaboration currently being undertaken between Japanese and French research institutions and were pleased to note the high level and quality of this research.

The Embassy of France in Japan introduced a structure called international joint research units (UMI) with the aim of promoting international joint research, which the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) has developed in Japan. The Joint Committee noted the importance of partnership between industry and academia.

It was proposed to hold the next Joint Committee meeting in France; the specific date of the meeting will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.