# <Summary>
# EU-Japan Science Policy Forum 2025
## *Towards "Research and Innovation in a Changing World"*

**Co-organised by**
**Delegation of the European Union to Japan and**
**Japan Science and Technology Agency**

**In cooperation with**
**Cabinet Office of Japan and**
**Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan**

**Saturday, 4 October 2025**
**11:30-15:30**

**Conference Room D (1F), Kyoto International Conference Center**
**Takaragaike, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto**



Discussion Summary

The EU-Japan Science Policy Forum 2025 was held in Kyoto on October 4, 2025 and was co-organised by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and the Cabinet Office of Japan. This was the 13th time that the forum has been held, with 89 high level representatives of the government entities, research funding and research performing organisations, academia, and industry, from Japan, European Union, and countries associated to Horizon Europe, who came to Kyoto to participate in the 22nd Annual Meeting of the STS Forum. This year, the theme of the event was: "*Research and Innovation in a Changing World*," with "Dialogue on Research Security for Action" and "Nurturing startup ecosystem" being the key topics.

New technologies such as AI, semiconductors, and quantum science are having a significant impact on society, making the coordination of science and technology policy, industrial policy, security, and foreign policy more important than ever. At the opening of the meeting, representative of both sides confirmed the relationship between Europe and Japan in research, science, and innovation has become unprecedentedly important. The driving force behind promoting strategic partnerships across all fields between Europe and Japan is our shared vision and the exceptionally

high level of trust we have built. Through the discussions, we reaffirmed that this was an excellent opportunity to deepen mutual understanding and further advance free and open scientific cooperation.

In the policy briefs session, government officials from Japan and EU, shared the latest trends in STI policies on both sides, and acknowledged as follows:

- International Cooperation and Shared Values: The EU and Japan share the values of openness, academic freedom, and international cooperation. Through collaboration with like-minded countries, they strive to balance risk management with the protection of democratic values. Scientific cooperation transcends borders and political positions, and respect for diversity is essential. Japan and the EU aim to link science and technology with policy and society through integrated cooperation, promoting sustainable development and deepening strategic partnerships.

- Cybersecurity: Over the past 20 years, cyberattacks have increased in frequency and sophistication, making cooperation among companies, startups, and academic communities essential. Strengthening cybersecurity through initiatives such as training young talent and supporting startups is also crucial.

- Research Security: Risks to national and economic security are increasing due to the unauthorized transfer of research knowledge and technology leakage, making the strengthening of research security an urgent priority. It is important to advance these efforts through ongoing dialogue and cooperation with a variety of stakeholders.

- Science and Technology Innovation and Startup Support: Emerging technologies such as AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and biotechnology are directly linked to economic growth, society and security. The EU and Japan aim to enhance competitiveness and technological sovereignty by promoting the commercialization of research results and supporting startups and scale-ups.

This was followed by two interactive sessions.

**Session I: "Dialogue on Research Security for Action"**

As science and technology become directly linked to economic growth and national security, the term "research security" has gained wide recognition. Its true purpose, however, is to promote international collaboration while maintaining openness and academic freedom. Yet, what exactly needs to be done has not been clearly defined. For this reason, continuous dialogue among stakeholders from different countries, sharing best practices, and ensuring consistency in efforts are essential. Building on last year's discussions, we recognize the significance of addressing this topic at the Forum and have reaffirmed the following points.

- Research security is a longstanding issue, aimed at ensuring academic freedom and maintaining an open research environment. Continuous dialogue among diverse stakeholders is essential. Funding organizations often face challenges in recognizing security risks, making staff capacity-building and international cooperation crucial. Since research security is an ongoing, global challenge, that requires awareness of interdependencies and support for researchers to make informed decisions.

- Japan is strengthening research security alongside G7 efforts, developing guidelines for researchers, universities, research institutions, and international participants. These guidelines serve as safeguards and support risk assessment. Researchers evaluate risks, implement countermeasures, and conduct continuous monitoring during project applications. Implementation uses a targeted approach, focusing on critical areas such as AI, and includes background checks and collaboration with partner researchers.

- The EU has adopted a Council recommendation on enhancing research security. The main objective of the recommendation is to support the Commission and member states to address research security risks deriving from international cooperation. Norway is developing a similar national policy. Each country must consider its own geopolitical and industrial context when forming security policies. Japan and the EU recognize geopolitical risks related to advanced technologies and cooperate based on the principle of "as open as possible, as secure as necessary."

- It is essential to safely promote cross-border and cross-disciplinary collaboration while balancing openness and security. Through cooperation with the EU and G7 countries, Japan advances safe and open international research based on shared values.

**Session II: "Nurturing startup ecosystem"**

The participants discussed how to turn excellent product of science and technology into real industrial and societal impact. While startups are thriving in Europe, the next challenge is scaling them up, and the EU hopes to promote scale-up efforts in cooperation with Japan. The discussion offered a valuable opportunity to deepen mutual understanding and further advance free and open scientific collaboration and following points were shared:

- In order to respond to rapid change, the growing importance of startups based on disruptive innovation must be recognized. It is essential to develop talent, strengthen networks, provide funding, and diversify strategies, transforming knowledge into business to contribute to economic growth, employment, and strategic autonomy.

- Both Europe and Japan face social factors that can hinder startups, making ecosystem building crucial. The goal is not merely to create startups, but to enable scientists to discover new directions and change the world, while maintaining an appropriate balance between curiosity-driven research and policy-driven research.

- Achieving scale-up through collaboration between startups and large companies is important as is addressing the challenges of managing dual-use technologies. In addition to public funding, models of public procurement that tolerate technological risk are necessary.

- For startups to succeed, mobility and brain circulation across industry, academia, and government are essential, as is sufficient investment in a wide range of basic research and foundational technologies. We need to consider how to nurture a highly disruptive, technology-intensive ecosystem that integrates academia and industry. We must focus not only on technological seeds emerging from academia, but also on the needs of industry. Europe and Japan can complement each other's strengths as partners in this effort.

The meeting concluded with the two sides confirming their dedication to continue discussing policy topics of mutual importance in the field of science, technology and innovation, and to further enhance concrete collaboration in top priority thematic and horizontal topics. Japan and the EU need to cooperate to find solutions to the complex global challenges.

Annex

# Agenda

**11:30-11:50** *Welcome remarks*

- **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan
- **Hiroshi Komiyama**, Chairman, STS forum

*Remarks and toast*

- **Kazuhito Hashimoto**, Chief Science and Technology Advisor to the Cabinet; President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

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**11:50-12:50** *Keynote policy briefs*

- **Yoichi Iida**, National Cyber Director, National Cybersecurity Office, Cabinet Secretariat
- **Bernard Magenhann**, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Masaaki Nishijo**, Director-General, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
- **Lina Galvez Munoz**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Takuya Fukumoto,** Deputy Director-General for Green Transformation & Innovation Policy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

*High-level comments*

- **Kohei Miyazono**, Chief Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, Japan
- **Teruo Fujii**, President, the University of Tokyo

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**12:50-13:55** **Interactive session I: Dialogue on Research Security for Action**

*Session moderator*

**Akira Tsugita**, Vice President/Chief Research Security Officer, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

*Speakers*

- **Tetsuro Fukunaga,** Director General(AI and critical technologies) for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office
- **Signe Ratso**, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission (video message)
- **Tetsuo Sawaragi**, Executive Vice-President for Research Ethics, Integrity, Code of Conduct, and International Affairs, Kyoto University
- **Mari Sundli Tveit**, Chief Executive, Research Council of Norway

*Discussants*

- **Kikuo Kishimoto**, Executive Director, Technology and Innovation Strategy Center (TSC), New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)
- **Gintaras Valinčius**, Chairman, Research Council of Lithuania
- **Shigeo Koyasu**, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and President of the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology (QST)
- **Angela McLean**, Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government

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**13:55-14:05** **Coffee break**

**14:05-15:15** **Interactive session II: Nurturing startup ecosystem**

*Session moderator*
**Jean-Eric Paquet**, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan

*Speakers*

- **Maria Leptin,** President, European Research Council
- **Mutsuko Inoue**, Deputy Director-General for Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
- **Manuel Mendigutia**, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)
- **Hideo Ohno**, Special Advisor on Science and Technology to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Special Senior Advisor to the President, Tohoku University
- **Hiroaki Kitano,** Chief Technology Fellow, Sony Group Corporation

*Discussants*
- **Silvia Lenaerts**, Rector, Technical University Eindhoven, the Netherlands
- **Yoichiro Matsumoto,** Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
- **Sylvia Schwaag Serger**, President, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)
- **Hitoshi Nakagama,** President, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

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**15:15-15:30** *Closing remarks*
- **Feite Hofman**, Viceminister, Ministry of Education, culture and Science, the Netherlands
- **Maki Kawai,** Director General, Centre for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan

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*Masters of Ceremony*

- **Tom Kuczynski**, Science and Technology Advisor, Delegation of the European Union to Japan
- **Kana Asano**, Fellow, Science Diplomacy Group, Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)