

**Survey Findings of European Researchers in Japan
- Towards developing ERA-Link/Japan -**

**November 29, 10:00 – 12:30
Hotel New Otani, Tokyo**

**Speech by Mr. Philippe de Taxis du Poët
(10 min)**

Networking European Researchers in Japan

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear European researchers in Japan,

It is a great pleasure for me, as science counsellor of the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan, to meet you today. You are a precious and significant part of European excellence in research. During your time here in Japan you act as scientific and cultural ambassadors for Europe.

Europe has recognized the importance of keeping contact with those who have left Europe, be it for a couple of years or a couple of decades. European researchers should be able to keep up to date with opportunities offered in all member states and new developments in European research policy. But once you leave Europe, it becomes more difficult to stay informed and to access all of the available resources.

This is why the European Commission has launched ERA-Link to provide information on research funding opportunities, specific job offers, fellowships and events of interest, etc. I would therefore like to take this opportunity today to inform you briefly about the European Commission's programmes and activities of particular relevance to you. Quite a lot has been achieved to break down obstacles to geographical mobility and to introduce a European dimension in researchers' careers. Here are just a few concrete examples:

- The **European Researchers' Mobility Portal** that helps researchers to identify training and job opportunities throughout Europe.
- The **European Charter for Researchers** and on the **Code of Conduct for their Recruitment**. The Charter is a sort of "bill of rights and duties" for all researchers working in the EU, whatever their nationality, and for their employers and funding bodies. The Code aims at establishing a reference framework for transparency and openness in the researchers' recruitment process. Today there are about 150 signatory organisations from 19 countries.
- The **"scientific visa" package**, which aims to ease significantly the entry and stay in Europe of researchers from outside the EU. This should become national law in the EU states before the end of this year.
- The **ERA-MORE network**, with 200 mobility centres throughout Europe, helping researchers to make informed mobility choices.

- The "**Vulcanus**" programme implemented by the EU-Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation for engineering or science students to learn Japanese and work in industry in Japan for one year.
- The **international "Marie Curie Actions"** for mobility and career development include the Outgoing Fellowships, the Incoming Fellowships and the International Reintegration Grants.
- The new Marie Curie **International Research Staff Exchange Scheme** to strengthen research partnerships through staff exchanges (e.g. researcher, management and technical staff) and networking between European research organisations and organisations from Third countries having an S&T agreement (or are in the process of negotiating one - Japan is therefore eligible) with the EU. IRSES first call for proposals will be launched tomorrow (30 November) with a closing date of 28 March 2008.

The EU-Japan cooperation in research and innovation will depend on our capacity in both Japan and Europe to mobilise the talent (people); the enterprises (large and small ones); the investment (public and private), the regional research and innovation clusters, and the capacities (research infrastructures) towards S&T areas of common interest; not to forget the necessary mobilisation of Member States bilateral research cooperation programmes with Japan. Time has come to move up a gear in the EU-Japan R&D cooperation to ensure mutual sustainable prosperity and further deepen our global relationship.