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Title	<i>Japan, EU execs begin 2-day meeting to promote business+.</i>

About 50 top executives from Japan and the European Union (EU) began a two-day meeting Monday in Tokyo to discuss the global economy and measures to facilitate and further promote business between the two sides.

Participants in the EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table include Tadahiro Sekimoto, chairman emeritus of NEC Corp., Iwao Toriumi, chairman of Marubeni Corp., and Etienne Davignon, chairman of Societe Generale de Belgique and former vice president of the European Commission.

Erkki Liikanen, EU commissioner for enterprise and information society, is also attending the meeting.

Participants say the discussion results will be reported to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, European Commission President Romano Prodi and French President Jacques Chirac prior to the Japan-EU summit scheduled for Wednesday in Tokyo.

According to organizers, Davignon will deliver a speech on the latest developments on the euro, the EU's single currency, while Takashi Imai, chairman of Nippon Steel Corp. and the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), will speak on the current situation and prospects of the Japanese economy.

Ricoh Co. Chairman Hiroshi Hamada will discuss progress on Japan's deregulation and Fuji Xerox Co. Chairman Yotaro Kobayashi will speak on future corporate management, they said.

The participants will discuss issues covering six areas -- the World Trade Organization, trade and investment in the EU and Japan, accounting and taxation systems, electronic commerce, regulatory issues such as patents and standards for telecommunications, and a mutual recognition agreement, commonly known as MRA.

"This meeting provides a good opportunity for European business leaders to join with their Japanese counterparts to discuss issues of common concern," said Isabelle Hupperts, chief representative for Japan and the Asia-Pacific region at Societe Generale de Belgique, a Brussels-based holding company, and head of the European Business Community in Japan.

"Such cooperation, I think, is very important because it represents our joint effort to persuade respective governments to solve concrete problems perceived as impediments to trade and investments between the EU and Japan," she said.