

EBC E-NEWS BULLETINS

MARCH 2001 (No. 1)

This bulletin is a very simple prototype to start a process of regular communication from the EBC Secretariat to EBC members. The shape, form and timing of the bulletin will evolve over the coming months. The intention is to include generic news of interest to EBC members as well as internal updates. The length will be relatively short and the delivery fairly frequent.

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INTERNAL NEWS

Request from Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The EBC Secretariat was visited recently by the General Manager of the International Division of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), which is a 100,000-member-strong organization. The Chamber has an International Affairs Committee chaired by Mr. Toriumi, Chairman of Marubeni Corporation. The purpose of the committee is to discuss matters relating to trade policy, macroeconomics, ODA and similar topics. TCCI has invited two members of the ACCJ to join the committee and would like one or two members of the EBC to join as well. The requirements are Japanese language ability, as the meetings are conducted in Japanese, and a willingness to participate in 4 meetings per year. This year's topic of discussion has not yet been decided. We would like 2 EBC members to join this forum as it is important for Europe be represented and for the EBC to cooperate with the TCCI. If you would like to join this committee, please contact the Secretariat as soon as possible at ebc@gol.com

EBC Submission on "No-Action Letter" Finalised

The EBC submission on the proposed clarification and advance clearance mechanism, the so-called "no-action letter" (NAL), has been completed. Thanks are extended to the many members who sent us helpful comments. Casey has tried to include as many of them as possible. The submission, which is now 7 pages long with a cover letter from the EBC Chairman, is currently being translated. The Secretariat will hand deliver the submission to the MPHPT (Somusho) on Friday. Thanks to Casey's efforts, the EBC submission has had a definitive influence on the submissions from the other foreign organisations (ACCJ, IBA, etc.) as we were the first to finish and circulate our draft. The EC Delegation will be submitting a detailed letter endorsing our submission, which will be attached to their letter. The Secretariat will post our final English and Japanese submissions on the EBC website sometime next week.

EBC Tax Committee Visits Head of Tax Commission

The Tax Committee, represented by Mr. Wolfgang Lueckerath, Committee Chairman, and Mr. Peter Stalman, Committee Secretary, accompanied by Casey Sedgman and Alison Murray, visited Dr. Hiromitsu Ishi last week to present the views of the committee and to establish a consultative relationship. Dr. Ishi is the Chairman of the Japanese Government's Tax Commission, which is the major advisory body in Japan that provides the government with recommendations on the nation's long-term tax policy. The meeting was excellent and Dr. Ishi has facilitated an upcoming meeting of the group with a high-level and influential administrator within the National Tax Agency.

EU-Japan Mobile Seminar

Several members of the EBC e-Commerce Committee are cooperating with the EU-Japan Industrial Cooperation Centre in holding an all-day seminar at the Keidanren Hall on Monday, March 26. The title of the seminar is "1st EU-Japan Mobile Conference" and speakers will include several EBC members. For more information and registration see <http://www.wunavi.net/moco/> For a site map see <http://www.wunavi.net/moco/map.shtml> Seats are limited and places are reportedly filling up fast. The EBC is pleased to endorse this event.

GENERIC NEWS

Domestic Space Merger Planned

NEC Corp. and Toshiba Corp. are setting up a joint venture in April and will transfer all their space operations to it within the following six months. The joint venture will focus on space infrastructure, spacecraft and ground systems. The objectives of the move are to increase revenues and offer better space-related systems with greater cost-effectiveness.

NEC Corp. - <http://www.nec-global.com>

Toshiba Corp. - <http://www.toshiba.co.jp/index.htm>

Venture Market Association Established in Kansai Region

The Venture Market Association was established in Hyogo Prefecture in late 2000. The Association is offering wide-ranging matching opportunities called "Venture Market Phoenix" between venture businesses both inside and outside of Japan. It is also conducting seminars on how to become stock-listed and provides training programs for investors on improving screening competence. Members of the Association include companies and organizations, Currently, membership is free of charge. For more information, see <http://www.hero.or.jp/market>

March Edition of "Look Japan" Available on the Web

The March edition of "Look Japan" is available on the web at <http://lookjapan.com>

Various articles can be accessed, including comments about the 2001 White Paper on Global Investment put out by JETRO. There is also an article on "The EU and Japan" by Mr. Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, Ambassador of Austria.

