



Newsletter March 2009

European Business Council
(The European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan)
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Event Calendar

March 6:
CCIFJ: Breakfast meeting

March 10:
Symposium franco-japonais

March 12:
IJCC: Speaker Evening
Comité Fiscalité et
Réglementation de la CCIFJ
DCCJ Annual General Meeting (AGM)

March 13:
Whose Line is it Anyway?
55ème Rendez-vous Franco-Japonais

March 16:
Symposium on Environmental
Technologies and Alternative
Energy Generation
Legal Seminar: Accepting the
Challenge - Corporate
Reorganisation in Japan

March 17:
FCCJ: Club evening meeting

March 18:
BCCJ: The art of dining
Soirée conférence du Paris Club
Luncheon Meeting: Common
Sense Isn't Common -
Reworking the Traditional Sales
Approach
Austria Fair - Isetan Shinjuku

March 19:
SCCJ: Spring general assembly

March 22:
Notte di Vino e Jazz con
Nicola Conte

March 24:
Europe in Japan - What are we
doing wrong?

March 25:
SCCJ & YCN Joint Club Evening

March 26:
BCCJ 51 Night
Seminar for Executives: Women
in Business

March 30:
Wa! Favourite Selections from
Britain and Japan

EBC Secretariat News

EBC Chairman Presentation to French and British Chambers

EBC Chairman, Mr. Tommy Kullberg, made a lunch presentation following the General Assembly of the French Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Japan. The Chairman is scheduled to make similar presentations at several chamber events in March and April. The next will be a lunch presentation held by the British Chamber of Commerce on March 24. Tommy will talk about, "Europe in Japan—What are We Doing Wrong." Visit the BCCJ website for information and to register.

Visit from OECD

Economists from the Japan/Korea Desk of the OECD visited the EBC to seek views on the Japanese healthcare system and related regulatory environment. The Medical Equipment Committee was represented at the meeting by Mr. Masao Murase of Philips Electronics Japan, who serves as the secretariat of the committee.

Visit by Eucomed

Representatives from Eucomed (EU Federation of Medical Device Manufacturers and Organisations) visited the EBC Secretariat and the Medical Equipment Committee to make a presentation on the current thinking of not only Eucomed, but also the EU Commission on the regulatory environment in Europe.

Tokyo Metropolitan Government's One-Stop Information Portal

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government operates a one-stop business entry portal for foreign-affiliated firms in Japan. The office provides a variety of business services free of charge ranging from information provision through business matching to business start-up and operational assistance. For more information in English, contact support@tokyo-business.jp or access <http://www.tokyo-business.jp>

EBC offering regulatory expertise for European companies

As many foreign companies trading or doing business in Japan often encounter company-specific difficulties in dealing with standards and regulations that are not addressed among relevant committee priority issues, the EBC is offering its expertise and services on a fee-charging basis to both members and non-members. So as not to intrude on the competence of the committees and the Chambers, the EBC only works on tasks that are directly related to regulatory and related issues that are specific to a particular company's needs. Regulatory and other issues that are faced by many companies are included among the various committee priority issues. EBC has long-term experience in dealing with Japan's technical regulations and an extensive network with politicians and officials at the Japanese ministries and can help with such matter as: approval procedures, standards, specific lobbying or setting up of meetings with governmental officials.

Committee news

Organic Products

The Organic Products Committee has initiated a dialogue with MAFF on the conditions for and possible processes to facilitate recognition in Japan of European Certified Organic Products. Currently, Australian organic foods are granted automatic approval for sale in Japan, whereas European Certified foods have to go through a substantially more burdensome process.

Airlines

The EBC Airline Committee met with air transport divisions of the MLIT to present the EBC white paper and discuss issues such as airport infrastructure and high costs. The possibility of future access to Haneda for European airlines was covered at great length.

Telecom Carriers

The committee visited the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) as part of the preparation for a position paper on the future reorganisation of NTT. The position paper will be used as a way to re-launch policy discussions with the Ministry.

Insurance

Media reports on Japan Post seeking to expand its product range before privatization have raised concern among EBC members about possible distorted competition in the sector. EBC has visited the FSA for clarification on the matter and an exchange of views.

Legal

The Japan Bar Association has sent a letter asking foreign law firms to register all employees holding a law degree. The common practice has this far been to register partners, but not necessarily all employees. This move by the bar association brings to the forefront, the complex and costly registering process, an issue the committee now seeks to address proactively.

Executive Operating Board News

The EBC welcomes two new members to the Executive Operating Board: Mr. Pio d'Emilio, representing the Board of the Italian Chamber and Mr. Arno Tomowski, representing the Board of the German Chamber of Commerce & Industry.