



New EBC Website - Have You Checked It Out Yet?

We want to remind you that the EBC's website has been renewed recently at <http://www.ebc-jp.com>. The new site has garnered generous praise from a wide range of commentators and is receiving a very high rate of visits. We hope that EBC members and stakeholders are proud of the EBC's new communication tool. By exploring the reconstructed site, viewers will find a large body of information related to the business and investment environment in Japan and the structural and regulatory changes that EBC is working hard to achieve for European companies. We have tried to make our website easier to navigate to learn more about the EBC's work in Japan. A special feature is the catalogue-style layout of the 2008 EBC White Paper, which also is available as usual in PDF format. The homepage also provides a selection of key news items and a heads-up on events being held by the national European chambers of commerce.

EBC Offering Consulting Services

The EBC is offering its expertise on a fee-charging basis to members and non-members to deal with company-specific regulatory, non-regulatory & other trouble-shooting issues as well as political and high-level bureaucrat networking. The EBC has a long history of dealing with Japan's regulatory environment and an extensive network of key contacts among politicians and government officials. We can help with matters like approval procedures, standards, issue-specific lobbying, research, setting up of various meetings with government officials, and so on. Contact Alison Murray at ebcam@gol.com for more details.

EBC Needs More White Paper Sponsorships

The EBC's annual White Paper is our trademark report, published annually on a self-funding sponsorship basis. So far this year, we have received generous pledges of financial support, but the amount promised so far will not cover the full cost of production. The white paper is a critical tool in the lobbying process. Accordingly, we are still requesting more EBC members to kindly sponsor the report. Please contact Alison Murray at ebcam@gol.com for details.

The 2009 White paper is needed for our upcoming efforts to educate the new DPJ Cabinet members and other key politicians about issues of concern to European businesses in Japan. As the DPJ leaders have already indicated they are looking for a new multipolar global balance with less influence from the US, we believe there is a great opportunity to present the European position, and more importantly, to be heard.

New Railway Committee Established

The EBC has established a new Railway Committee, chaired by Mr. Kai Taylor of Thales Japan K.K. Around 18 people expressed interest in the committee and 14 joined the first meeting to discuss various issues affecting different segments of the potential railway market in Japan. Some of the issues that surfaced included fundamental market access, problems with procurement opportunities, environmental issues and consideration of the legal impact of the international Governmental Procurement Agreement to which Japan is a signatory. The committee's priority issues will be included in a new "Railway" section of the 2009 White Paper.

IT Committee Mooted

If there are enough potential members, the EBC will set up an Information Technology Committee. Please contact Alison Murray at ebcam@gol.com if interested.

EBC Comments on the Election

EBC Policy Director, Jakob Edberg, has prepared a commentary on the August 31 election outcome and what it might mean for European companies in Japan. [Click here to read the article on the EBC website.](#)

North America-Europe Golf Challenge

The annual golf challenge will be played this year on Friday 2 October at the same venue as in previous years, Atsugi Kokusai C.C. To sign-up as a player and/or sponsor, please go to <http://www.dccgolf-japan.com>

Tax Committee Joins Call for Extension of NOL Carry Forward Period

The EBC Tax Committee joined the ACCJ and the Keidanren in calling for an extension of the net operating loss (NOL) carry forward period and extension of the NOL carry-back to provide an effective stimulus to Japanese and foreign companies. [Click here to read the press release on the EBC website.](#)

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(The European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan)

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Event Calendar

September 15th

GCCIJ

*Japan Individual Income Taxes:
Overview & Latest Developments
for Expatriates & Foreign
Corporations in Japan*

September 16th

BCCJ

*What's the Matter with Kids
Today?*

**EU-Japan Centre for Industrial
Cooperation**

*The Role of ICT in Reducing
Carbon Emissions and
Promoting Energy Efficiency:
Initiatives in the EU
and Japan*

September 17th

BCCJ

Presentation Skills

*Japan's Financial Sector: current
issues, future prospects*

DCCJ

Japan After The Elections

FCCJ

FCCJ Luncheon Meeting

GCCIJ

*Corporate Restructuring in Japan
- Managing Legal &
Communication Challenges*

September 30th

ACCJ

*Green Marketplace Forum: The
Future Of Work, Home, & How
We Get Around*

ANZCCJ / BCCJ / GCCIJ

Managing the Media

SCCJ

*Business Luncheon with Mr.
Hiroshi Nakaso of Bank of
Japan*

[Click here to visit the EBC
"Events" page for details](#)