

FORSCHUNG UND LEHRE

European Japan Experts Association [EJEA]

On November 4, 1995 approximately 30 Japan experts from 11 European countries and from the European Commission assembled at the Japanese-German Center Berlin [JGCB] for the foundation of the European Japan Experts Association [EJEA].

It was strongly felt that such an association would help to generate and disseminate knowledge concerning Japan, the most important partner and competitor in Asia, amongst European scholars, professionals, engineers etc. and through them to European companies, and especially decision makers. A European organization of this kind is necessary because not only issues regarding trade but also more and more fields of politics are now issues for the European Union and not only the nation-state alone.

While European associations with a focus on Japan exist in humanities and some other fields of learning, there is no such organization for scientists and engineers, for example, even though there are now many specialists in Europe with a first hand knowledge on Japan.

The Association also goes back on the initiative of the Japanese-German Center Berlin to establish an association for the alumni of its Special Exchange Program, and on experiences of several institutes from all over Europe to create with the support of the European Commission a Euro-Japan Economic Forum to cater to both business schools and the business community. The founding members of EJEA hope both groups will find their concerns reflected in the European Japan Experts Association.

Conceived as an interdisciplinary association with a European profile and also open to experts from administration, business, etc., the EJEA aims to develop initiatives on a European level such as:

- European summer schools on subjects related to Japan for various groups like Japanologists, students of business studies, managers etc.
- Building up an information network and data-basis, in order to help interested parties to provide and obtain information on Japan and other institutions and people in Europe with the same interest
- Organizing conferences on a wide range of subjects in fields stretching from humanities to social sciences and business studies to natural sciences and engineering
- Encouraging research on various fields.

The Association will not compete with national activities and organizations, or with already existing associations on a European level. On the contrary, it strives to work together with these associations and bring them in touch with each other. The support and co-operation of some of these organizations like the European

Association for Japanese Studies, the Canon Foundation, Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation or the Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung was articulated during the foundation meeting of the EJEA.

The assembly on November 4 accepted the Association's constitution and voted in favour of the following persons to be member of its board:

1. Prof. Dr. Gesine Foljanty-Jost, Halle-Wittenberg University, Japanology; Chairwoman
2. Prof. Dr. Francesco Cerase, Naples University, Social Sciences; Deputy Chairman
3. Dr. Wolfgang Brenn, Japanese-German Center Berlin; Managing Member of the Executive Committee and Treasurer
4. Ambassador (ret.) Marcel Depasse, Belgium-Japan Chamber of Commerce; Deputy Managing Member and Secretary
5. Prof. Dr. Gerassimos Papadopoulos, National Observatory, Geodynamic Institute Athens
6. Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre Lehmann, Stockholm School of Economics, Director of the European Center for Japanese Studies

The EJEA is an association under German law and has in the meantime submitted the necessary documents to the Berlin Charlottenburg Court, in order to be registered as a charity organization ("eingetragener Verein, e.V."). It is presently recognized by the court as 'in founding' (in Gründung). The tax office has already released tax burdens.

The Association intends to work in close co-operation with the institutions of the European Union and in particular with the Commission. The Board is now preparing the Association's activities for 1996 and 1997, and reviewing the feasibility of various projects, including a summer school in Barcelona, a conference on "Japan and the Mediterranean World" in Naples, and a workshop in Greece on ecology.

The feasibility of electronic networking (working groups) and information services for members is under scrutiny. Therefore please inform us about your fields of interest. The board has also received an inquiry for support for a joint German/European-Japanese interdisciplinary research project.

We would very much appreciate, if you would consider becoming a member of the European Japan Experts Association. The annual fees are moderate (students: 30 DM, other individual members: 80 DM, non-profit insitutional membership: 300 DM, firms: 1.200 DM). Membership will give you access to a considerable amount of information and a network of specialists with excellent expertise on Japan all over Europe.

For further information and application please contact Mr Wolfgang Brenn (managing member of the board of the EJEA) at the address given below:

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