

EU-Japan Digital Partnership

EU**JAPAN**

DIGITAL WEEK 2025



Closed-Door Policy Workshop

“The EU-Japan Digital Partnership: Going Forward”

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

09:00 – 14:00 (local time)

The International House of Japan
5-11-16 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032, Japan

A closed-door roundtable organised by the Centre for Security and Strategy (CSDS) and the Institute of Geoeconomics as part of the EU-Japan Digital Week, an initiative under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership

Concept

New technologies are profoundly reshaping the global geopolitical landscape. The ability to access, develop, and govern cutting-edge technologies has become not only a prerequisite for boosting economic competitiveness, but a key strategic advantage in an increasingly volatile international security context. While digital transition and connectivity are much-needed drivers of innovation and prosperity, dual-use technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, or advanced semiconductors are at the heart of intensifying geoeconomic competition. Against this backdrop, cooperation among like-minded partners is essential to pool R&D resources, stay ahead of the curve in the mounting technological competition, and promote responsible and inclusive governance globally.

The European Union (EU) has made digital connectivity a priority in its engagement with Indo-Pacific partners, with Japan playing a central role in these efforts. The EU – Japan Digital Partnership Agreement, in force since 2023, underscores the shared commitment and political willingness of both partners to join forces on key areas, including semiconductors, AI, high-performance computing and quantum, Beyond 5G, data governance and Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), digital

connectivity platforms, and cybersecurity. What may be the regulatory, institutional and technological barriers to furthering EU -Japan digital connectivity? And what potential pathways can be explored to address these challenges effectively?

To address these questions, the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) and the Institute of Geoeconomics (IOG) will convene a half-day closed-door seminar bringing together leading European and Japanese experts and relevant policy practitioners.

Key Discussion Topics:

- 'Drivers of Technological Innovation and Sovereignty': How can the EU and Japan sustain their technological edge and sovereignty amidst the intensifying strategic competition between the United States and China?
- 'Emerging Technologies and Security Cooperation': What role do dual use emerging and disruptive technologies play in shaping EU and Japan's evolving security postures and bilateral cooperation?
- 'Domestic Challenges and Policy Coordination': What domestic priorities and challenges must be addressed to advance technological collaboration and digital connectivity?
- 'Promoting Global Governance': How can the EU and Japan champion responsible, human-centred, and sustainable global governance frameworks bilaterally and within existing multilateral frameworks?

Audience

A mix of business/academic/diplomatic/ industry – target 30-40 attendees in-person only.

- Scholars from CPDS, IOG and other organizations
- IOG membership businesses
- Representatives from Japanese government and/or diplomatic missions.

The event will be conducted in a roundtable style, supported by a simultaneous interpretation system to facilitate active audience participation.

Programme

09:00 – 09:10	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kazuto Suzuki, Director, IOG• Eva Pejsova, Japan Chair, CSDS
09:10 – 09:30	Keynote Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taro Kono, Member, House of Representatives; Former Minister for Digital Transformation• Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Japan
09:30 – 11:00	PANEL I – TOWARDS POLICY ALIGNMENT IN EMERGING AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES: AI, quantum, advanced semiconductors The race for technological supremacy has become the defining battleground of the 21st century, with AI, quantum technologies, and advanced

	<p>semiconductors at the core. For the EU and Japan, bridging policy divides, cooperating on governance priorities, and harmonising standards are essential to maintaining sovereignty in a landscape increasingly shaped by U.S.-China rivalry. While both partners share a commitment to ethical innovation and responsible governance of emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs), they diverge in their regulatory pace and approaches to industrial strategy. This panel will explore how both partners can align research priorities, foster innovation ecosystems, and build resilient supply chains. Special attention will be given to the importance of sharing best practices, mutual support, and concrete steps for policy alignment. With an eye on balancing economic security, competitiveness, and ethical imperatives, the discussion will focus on policy innovations and alignment that ensure both technological leadership and responsible governance of new technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Kota Umeda, Visiting Research Fellow, IOG • Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Antonio Calcara, Head of Technology and Geopolitics Programme, CSDS ○ Kazumi Nishikawa, Principal Director, Trade and Economic Security Bureau, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan ○ Hiroki Habuka, Research Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University; CEO, Smart Governance ○ Harald Kümmerle, Principal Researcher, German Institute for Japanese Studies ○ Sebastien Lechevalier, Visiting Researcher, German Institute for Japanese Studies
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>PANEL II – FROM SPACE TO UNDER THE SEA: CRITICAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY</p> <p>From satellite constellations and trustworthy, open, and secure 5G/6G infrastructures to undersea cables, digital infrastructure is the backbone of modern connectivity – and a critical lever of geostrategic power. The EU and Japan face shared challenges: ensuring security against cyber threats, mitigating disruptions in global supply chains, and expanding resilient networks in a volatile geopolitical climate. While both partners share a commitment to sustainable and secure connectivity, differences in regulatory frameworks and strategic priorities underscore the need for deeper alignment. This panel will examine the role of cutting-edge initiatives, including space-based networks and submarine cable systems, in driving sustainable growth and fortifying digital infrastructures. Experts will unpack the strategic, regulatory, and technical dimensions necessary for safeguarding critical digital infrastructures while promoting seamless global digital integration and open, free, stable, accessible, interoperable, reliable and secure digital connectivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Eva Pejsova, Japan Chair, CSDS • Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raluca Csernaton, Professor, Brussels School of Governance; Fellow, Carnegie Europe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Koichiro Komiyama, Deputy Director, Global Coordination Division, JPCERT/CC ○ Adam Kapovits, Program Manager, EURESCOM ○ Mihoko Matsubara, Chief Cybersecurity Strategist, NTT Corporation
13:00 – 14:00	Networking Lunch

The EU-Japan Digital Week is an initiative under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership and is supported by the following projects and organisations

