



**The 11th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium**  
*Green Horizons, Sustainable Futures:*  
*EU and Japan Research for Climate-Prepared, Resilient Societies*

**DRAFT 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Organised jointly with Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
**20 October 2021**

**VENUE** Vrije Universiteit Brussel Conference Centre, U-Residence, Bld Général Jacques 271, 1050 Brussels

**9:15-10:00 OPENING ADDRESSES**

Moderator Introduction by the Moderator, **Ken-ichi Yoshida**, Kobe University  
Speakers **Prof. Masato Fujisawa**, President, Kobe University (by video link)  
**Prof. Caroline Pauwels**, Rector, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
**H.E. Yasushi Masaki**, Ambassador of Japan to the European Union  
**Ms. Signe Ratso**, Deputy Director General, DG RTD, European Commission

**10:00-10:30 KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Keynote **Understanding the Metabolism of the Economies – Towards a Green Economy**  
**Prof. Paulo Ferrão**, Centre for Innovation, Technology and Policy Research, Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon University, President of the COST Association. Member of the Horizon Europe Mission Board *Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities*. Author of *Sustainable Urban Metabolism* (MIT Press, 2013) and *Urban*

Response **Romain Meeusen**, Vice-Rector, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**10:30-13:30 MORNING PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**10:30-13:30 PARALLEL SESSION 1 (ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS/ THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY/GREEN DEAL)**  
**'TOWARDS A GLOBAL GREEN ECONOMY'**

Joint Producers **Kenji Takeuchi**, Kobe University  
**Bashir Bernard Siman**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Chatham House London

**10:30-11:50** Theme 1: *The Climate Conundrum: WTO Rules or UN Climate Commitments?*

Moderator **Hiroaki Sakamoto**, Kobe University  
Speakers **Bashir Bernard Siman**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Chatham House London  
*Global Opportunities: Bridging the Gap between Climate and WTO Commitments*  
**Kenji Takeuchi**, Kobe University  
*Resilience of the World Trade to Climate Disasters*  
**Kevin Verbelen**, AGORIA and Brussels Diplomatic Academy  
*The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM): A Tech Industry Perspective*  
**Johan Eyckmans**, KU Leuven  
Title TBC

11:50-12:10 Coffee and networking break

**12:10-13:30** Theme 2: *The Perfect Storm: Building Economic Resilience in Overlapping Crises*

Moderator **Bashir Bernard Siman**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Speakers **Sebastian Obertür**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
*The Covid-19 Crisis: A Critical Juncture for EU Climate Policy Development?*  
**Hiroaki Sakamoto**, Kobe University  
*Pricing the Unpriced: An Interdisciplinary Effort to Make the Market Work for Climate*  
**Saskia Kapinga**, Vice-President Corporate Affairs, Shell Global  
*The Economics of Climate Change Mitigation: A Key Role for Industry* (Title TBC)  
**Representative (name TBC)**, Energy UK  
Title TBC

**10:30-13:30 PARALLEL SESSION 2 (NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY)**  
*'EMERGING BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS'*

Joint Producers **Minoru Mizuhata**, Kobe University and **Yoshiyuki Kajikawa**, Kobe University and RIKEN  
**Maitane Berecibar** VUB

**10:30-11:25** Theme 1: *Advances in Climate Science*

Moderator **Minoru Mizuhata**, Kobe University  
Speakers **Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele**, Expert to the IPCC, Université Catholique de Louvain (by video)  
*COP 26: A Crucial Moment in the Fight against Climate Change (Title TBC)*  
**Yoshiyuki Kajikawa**, Kobe University and RIKEN  
*Key Advances in Meteorology and Computational Climate Science*  
**Renganathan Giridharan**, University of Kent  
*The impact of urban compactness, comfort strategies and energy consumption on climate*  
**Dr. Miriam Pfeiffer**, Kiel University  
*Climate Past and Present: Corals as Monitors of Past and Current Tropical Climate Variability*

11:25-11:45 Coffee and networking break

**11:45 -13:30** Theme 2: *Key Technologies for a Carbon-neutral Environment*

Moderator **Yoshiyuki Kajikawa**, Kobe University and RIKEN  
Speakers **Takashi Kita**, Kobe University  
*Efforts to Promote SDGs at Kobe University*  
**Michel Cassir**, ParisTech, PSL-Research University  
*Promising Breakthrough Technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> Cycling and Absorption*  
**Minoru Mizuhata**, Kobe University  
*CO<sub>2</sub> Separation and Absorption: Research Breakthroughs*  
**Noriko Shisa**, Managing Director, Toyota Europe Research Centre  
*Title TBC*  
**Maitane Berecibar**, VUB  
*Batteries of the Future*

**10:30-13:30 PARALLEL SESSION 3 (SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES)**  
*'ENABLING RESILIENT, CLIMATE-PREPARED SOCIETIES: THE ROLE OF SSH'*

Joint Producers **Masayuki Sato**, Kobe University  
**Leo Van Audenhove**, VUB

**10:30-11:50** Theme 1: *Social Impact of Climate Change*

Moderator **Masayuki Sato**, Kobe University  
Speakers **Karel Deneckere**  
*Nuclear Power's Trembling Foundations: A Case Study of the Belgian Public Debate in the Aftermath of the Fukushima Accident*  
**Kazuhiro Ota**, Kobe University  
*Climate Change's Impact on Poverty and Migration*  
**Ginga Tamura**, NHK-Television, Japan  
*Informing the Public, Mobilising Public Opinion: The Role of Mass Media*  
**Michel Claessens**, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
*How Should Scientists Tackle Global Crises: The Climate Test-Case*

11:50-12:10 Coffee and networking break

**12:10-13:30** Theme 2: *Local Adaptation to Global Warming*

Moderator **Leo Van Audenhove**, VUB  
Speakers **Koen Borghys**, VUB  
*Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of the Local Level in Brussels*  
**Carina Veeckman**, VUB  
*Citizen Science for Environmental Monitoring and Policy: Best Practices*  
**Mieko Kiyono**, Kobe University  
*Adaptation to Climate Change: Community Resilience to Natural Disasters in Rural Area, JAPAN*  
**Marialena Nikolopoulou**, University of Kent  
*Thermal Comfort as a Commodity; What does Thermal Resilience Mean under Climate Change?*

**13:30-14:30 JAPANESE NETWORKING LUNCH**

## 14:30-14:45 POLICY KEYNOTE

Speaker **Elina Bardram, Director ff, DG CLIMA, European Commission**  
*The EU-Japan Green Alliance: Joining Forces to Deliver COP 26 Goals*

## 14:45-16:15 AFTERNOON - OPEN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND BROKERAGE EVENTS

Objective The objective of these workshops and brokerage meeting, involving morning session speakers and young scientists is to share mutual research interests, and to discuss funding possibilities for EU-Japan collaborative projects, in the perspective of forthcoming Horizon Europe Calls focused on Japan.

### 14:45-16:15 OPEN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP/BROKERAGE EVENT A (ECONOMICS) 'VALUING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY'

Joint Producers **Kenji Takeuchi**, Kobe University and **Bashir Bernard Siman**, VUB

Moderator **Kenji Takeuchi**, Kobe University

Contributors **Adelina Gschwandtner**, University of Kent  
*Willingness to Pay for Organic Chicken Using the Hedonic Pricing Method*  
**Gunnar Gutsche**, University of Kassel  
*Individual Preferences for Sustainable Investments Across Europe: A Framed Field Experiment*  
**Kayo Murakami**, Kobe University  
*Heterogeneity of Weighting to Mitigate Global Environmental Damages Among G20 Countries*  
**Miwa Nakai**, Fukui Prefectural University  
*The effect of environmental information on preferences for dynamic electricity tariffs: A case of Germany-Japan comparison*

### 14:45-16:15 OPEN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP/BROKERAGE EVENT B (NATURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY)

Joint Producers **Minoru Mizuhata**, Kobe University and **Maitane Berecibar**, VUB

Session leader **Minoru Mizuhata**, Kobe University

Contributors **Hiroshi Suzuki**, Kobe University  
*Thermochemical Technology and Thermal Storage*  
**Kentaro Kuratani**, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) and Kobe University  
*Breakthrough Research in Material Technologies: Batteries, Fuel Cells, Solar Cells*  
**Marco Liserre**, Kiel University  
*Alternative Energy: A Key Role for Power Electronics*

### 14:45-16:15 OPEN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP/BROKERAGE EVENT C (SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES)

Joint Producers **Masayuki Sato**, Kobe University, and **Leo Van Audenhove**, VUB

Session leaders **Leo Van Audenhove**, VUB, and **Patrick Vittet-Philippe**, Kobe University Brussels European Centre

Contributors Morning session speakers, Ph.D students, science communication experts, civil society representatives.

## 16:15-16:30 CLOSING REMARKS

**Tamotsu Nakamura**, Executive Vice-President, Kobe University  
**Hugo Thienpont**, Vice-Rector for Innovation & Industry Relations, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (TBC)  
**Jeremy Carette**, Dean for Europe, University of Kent (TBC)

## 16:30-17:30 NETWORKING RECEPTION AND DRINKS

## OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 9:15-14:30 FOLLOW UP WORKSHOP/BROKERAGE EVENT: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU-JAPAN R&I COOPERATION

This Symposium will be followed by an online workshop and brokerage event the next day (21 October 2021) on  
'*New Opportunities for EU-Japan Research and Innovation Cooperation*'.

Jointly organised by Kobe University and the VUB, and supported by Waseda & Kansai Universities and the UniLiON Network of University Offices in Brussels, this interactive virtual event will focus on new funding opportunities for R&I cooperation in Europe and Japan. It will include presentations of ongoing & future projects, and testimonials from EU and Japanese partners.