



On 17 April 2024, in the framework of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, a public-private stakeholders' workshop was held ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council meeting, to engage with stakeholders and undertake a dialogue, co-creating the Partnership and providing recommendations for further actions.

## DPA areas of collaboration:

### Policy:

Interoperability, regulatory frameworks, legislation, standards, ethics, values.

### Trade:

Facilitating digital trade, principles building on G7 equivalent and WTO e-commerce negotiations, policy dialogues and regulatory cooperation on matters such as Supply Chains Resilience, Digital IDs, e-Invoicing Standards, Paperless Trading, Data Flows, Data Localisation and Privacy.

### Emerging Technologies:

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductors (AI Chips), Automation, IoT, Digital Trust (DFFT), eID, Cybersecurity, Quantum & HPC, Big Data, 5G/6G Telecom, Web 3, Blockchain, SMART Submarine Cables, Digital Platforms.

### R&D:

Facilitate the connections between academia, industry, business and startups, digital skills.

The Workshop brought together 211 participants from over 20 different organisations. The Workshop was organised by DG Connect, the Delegation of the European Union to Japan; and for the Government of Japan by the Digital Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Support was provided by the Digital Partnerships in Action (DPA) project. A second stakeholders' event for Japan will be held as a follow up to this first one.

In-depth sessions focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductors, Quantum Research and Innovation, Cyber Security, Submarine Cables and Digital Identity and provided a basis for policy recommendations. High-level outcomes from the Workshop were:

- The EU-Japan Digital Partnership is a trust-based partnership that does not take place in isolation of broader socio-economic developments and the geo-political context. This partnership stands for free trade, multilateralism, and jointly addressing challenges for the digitisation of the economy and society.
- Several work areas are in full action mode, notably AI, digital identities, sub-marine cables and semiconductors, and more can be expected from the work programme moving ahead.
- Several work areas are being scoped and offer space for more cooperation, such as quantum, data governance and cybersecurity. Topics are broad and complex, with fruitful conversations and actions ongoing.
- Stakeholders suggested new areas and generally advocated for tangible actions such as pilots, showcases and real joint technical developments.

 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/partnerships>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/digital-partnerships-in-action>

 [https://twitter.com/digital\\_in88360](https://twitter.com/digital_in88360)

The Workshop was chaired by **Peter FATELNIG, Minister-Counsellor, Digital Economy Policy, Delegation of the European Union to Japan**. Opening remarks were made by **Toshiyuki ZAMMA, Director General, Digital Agency**; **Tomohiro USHIYAMA, Deputy Director-General for IT Strategy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)**; **Yasuo TAWARA, Director-General of the Global Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)**; and **Thibaut KLEINER, Director, Policy Strategy and Outreach, DG Connect, European Commission**.

All interventions emphasised the strategic importance of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, the underlying common values and interests of cooperation in the current rapidly evolving technological and geopolitical landscape. The Digital Partnership is playing a crucial role in providing a platform for knowledge exchange, concrete action, alignment and enhanced cooperation.

The session on Stakeholders' Views included presentations from **Joël GUSCHKER, Senior Manager for International Affairs and Trade Policy of DIGITALEUROPE**; **Fabio CRISAFULLI, Director, Alliances and Netvibes, Dassault Systèmes, from the EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT)**; **Marco CANTON, Chair of Digital Innovation Committee at the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)**; and **Akiko HARADA, Deputy General Manager, Green Innovation Department, Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)**.

Some key messages and recommendations were:

- Advocate for Ethical **AI**.
- Reinforce strategic **cooperation** between the EU and Japanese authorities and businesses to reduce dependencies. The EU and Japan must intensify collaborative efforts, pooling resources, knowledge, and expertise. This is notably the case for enhanced collaboration on economic security. Regular strategic dialogues with stakeholders are essential. Japan should be associated to Horizon Europe. Support the ongoing negotiations for Japan to join the Horizon Europe Programme as an Associated Country. Increase the number of joint EU-Japan calls in the current Horizon Europe Programme as a “preparatory action” to increase the number of Japanese organisations involved.
- Accelerate **6G** initiatives with industries, governments, academia and communities working together. Ensure universal access to high-speed connectivity.
- Harmonise **cybersecurity** standards, lead in **quantum** computer age security, and promote mutual adoption of technologies.
- Participate in the **semiconductor** value chain, foster cooperation in chip manufacturing, and collaborate on sourcing critical minerals while promoting supply chain resilience.
- Invest in **skills**, raising awareness and educating all generations on digital transformation, including cybersecurity, AI, robotics, metaverse, and blockchain, while supporting skills development for emerging job opportunities. Establish digital maturity centres within universities to support competitiveness through R&D and manufacturing advancements, bridging the gap by merging international best practices.
- Take **DFFT** (Data Free Flow with Trust) to the next stage. Strengthen EU-Japan cooperation to advocate for free trade and multilateralism, emphasising high standards for cross-border data flows and the extension of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions.
- **Standards** harmonisation - a cornerstone of industrial connectivity. Mutual exchanges between experts on various standards will provide the foundation for interoperability. Co-organise awareness raising meetings between EU and Japanese standards setting organisations to inform stakeholders about the progresses of the harmonisation work in different topic. Create a methodology based on global standards while reflecting sectoral and regional approaches. Identify common data items and formats as well as an API so that we can exchange data among different solutions, platforms and networks. Incorporate those fundamental elements into our respective data platforms / networks / solutions as collaborative areas. Enhance technical discussion on how to secure trust while facilitating innovation and competitiveness.