

# POLICY BRIEF

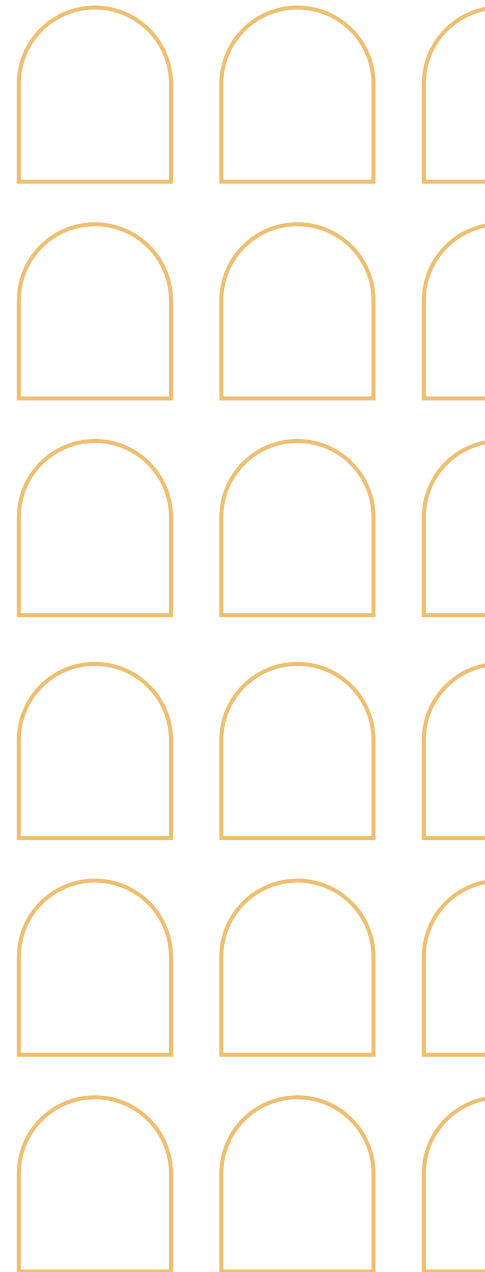
## EU- Japan Connectivity Promises

### Abstract

A strategic approach is now being taken towards EU-Japan cooperation in the field of politics, development, strategy and security. Despite diverse political and administrative cultures that have slowed the process, it is moving forward. COVID19 and the impossibility of meeting face to face has impaired communication but, at the same time, provisions to cope with the negative economic impact of the virus have led to record high government budgets and stimulus packages. Financial resources that can be used for new Japanese and EU projects and ideas are thus available. A Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure was signed between the EU and Japan in September 2019. This Partnership Agreement, which is also designed to encourage projects in other countries, covers sectors from transport and energy to digital industries. It calls for 'transparent procurement practises, assurance of debt sustainability and high standards of economic, fiscal, financial, social and environmental sustainability'. Coupled with ODA (Official Development Assistance), which would be necessary for its implementation in the developing world, this partnership can make a difference. Our paper will begin by presenting a short historical background of EU-Japan relations. This will be followed by an account of the development of recent years and finally, by a focus on the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure. The meaning of Infrastructure Connectivity both for EU and Japan, as well as for China, will be analysed. Then we will venture into the implementation phase of the Partnership and finally we will offer policy advice.

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## Intro

A strategic approach is now being taken towards EU-Japan cooperation in the fields of politics, development, strategy and security. Despite diverse political and administrative cultures that have slowed the process, it is moving forward. COVID19 and the impossibility of meeting face to face has impaired communication but generous economic stimulation packages should help allay the difficulties this created. In addition, the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure was signed between the EU and Japan in September 2019. This Partnership Agreement, also designed to encourage projects in third countries, covers sectors from transport to digital industries. It calls for 'transparent procurement practises, assurance of debt sustainability and the high standards of economic, fiscal, financial, social and environmental sustainability'. Coupled with ODA (Official Development Assistance), which would be necessary for its implementation in the developing world, this partnership can make a difference.

There are several forces driving the process of further EU-Japan cooperation. One has to do with geopolitical changes and the rise of China. While the EU-Japan partnership agreement does not mention China by name, it is clearly crafted with Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative in mind. This giant Chinese project has been endorsed by more than 150 countries, including more than half of the 27 EU member states. The need for infrastructure, in Asia in particular, is huge: required development funds are estimated to reach US\$6 trillion by 2030. Chinese contribution is welcome but there is a fear among traditional donors that it may not be offered in a fair way and with transparency. The EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure is an attempt to remedy that and to provide an alternative source of financing.

A second reason for EU-Japan cooperation is the decline of liberalism on a worldwide basis. With the outcome of Brexit and the refugee crises in Europe, liberal world order is being questioned. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to greater concerns regarding security. This is coupled with a weakening role for the US. Former Presi-

dent Donald Trump's policy of 'America first' further challenged the liberal world order. America's two main liberal partners (the EU and Japan) were made aware that multilateralism was no longer a priority. In fact, these regions remained the two main powers left to defend the liberal world order. With the Biden administration now in place, there has been a reversal that implies more cooperation from the US. President Joe Biden has announced that the US will join the Paris (Climate) Agreement. Yet it is becoming more unlikely that the country will rejoin the Iran nuclear deal. At the Munich security conference on transatlantic relations in Feb 19, 2021 Biden strongly emphasised that 'America is back'<sup>1</sup> Although this was highly appreciated, by both the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the French president Emmanuel Macron, neither leader seems to view this as a solution to the world's problems: they seem to have learnt a lesson from the years with Trump. The world has changed, and the US might have different priorities, as President Macron put it.<sup>2</sup>

The fact is that the US might have a hard time of getting back again. A geopolitical power shift is ongoing; last year China overtook the US as Europe's largest trading partner.<sup>3</sup> The EU and China have recently concluded, in principle, the negotiations for a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI). Recent figures also show that China is now the country that receives most foreign direct investment.<sup>4</sup> The Chinese economy was the only major economy that showed substantial growth during 2020.

Besides all the death and human suffering caused by COVID19, measures to ensure it does not spread further mean profound changes to the way we live our lives and how business and the international order is set up. An effective response to COVID19 requires multilateral actions. It has caused severe reduction to travel, communication and trade as countries have closed their borders to prevent the virus from spreading. EU and Japanese companies have seen distortion to their supply chains and are hedging against such negative alterations in the future. But it is not only the companies experiencing difficulties. The EU and Japanese governments seem to be hedging against distortions in other fields. The current pandemic strengthens the political motivation for cooper-

1 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9HZ6rcW9KI&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=MunichSecurityConference](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9HZ6rcW9KI&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MunichSecurityConference) (February 19 2020)

2 Ibid.

3 [https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/september/tradoc\\_122530.pdf](https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/september/tradoc_122530.pdf)

4 <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55791634>

ation between the EU and Japan. They share a mutual goal of promoting a liberal world order built on values such as transparency, sustainability, democracy and human rights. Collaboration is likely to increase between the EU and Japan on a multi-lateral level and when third countries are involved. There are also security reasons for working together. Neither Japan nor the EU want to let an intensely powerful China dominate world affairs, nor do they want to be caught up in a US trade confrontation with China, nor find that Russia is teaming up with China. European countries and Japan are, of course, heavily dependent on the US in the field of security but, at the same time, they are not likely to accept a system of US divide and rule. In the future they will probably hedge their bets.

After decades of talk about cooperation, it seems that the EU and Japan have finally begun to initiate concrete actions. This paper will give an account of developments in recent years, including the conclusion of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and finally, the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure. The meaning of Connectivity for EU and Japan will be analysed, as well as what this concept means for China. The strategic cooperative approach taken by the EU and Japan today will be presented. Finally, advice will be given on an effective implementation, one that will make a difference.

## Historical background to EU-Japan relations

Following defeat in 1945 Japan became an occupied country. A program of 'demilitarization' and 'democratization' was initiated by SCAP (the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers). Although the Occupation was termed 'Allied', European leaders took little interest in Japanese affairs since most of the running of SCAP was in the hands of the American military. At the time European countries also had more pressing issues to contend with, such as economic collapse and identity crises at home. The US came to play an important role in the rebuilding, not only of Japan but also of parts of Europe.

Diplomatic relations were resumed between Japan and various West European countries when Japan gained independence in 1952, but US dominance impeded any form of substantive bilateral dialogue. Only with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War were political relations

ready to take off. The Hague Declaration of 1991 led to the initiation of policy dialogues between Japan and the EC and relations became institutionalised, with regular official political dialogue at various levels and covering a range of issues.

For much of the Cold War period China was not a central player in global politics. Largely isolated from the Western world by the US policy of non-recognition (including no economic contact), China did not fundamentally affect the EU or even Japan. The main communist threat felt by both Japan and the EU was from the Soviet Union. China's international role, and its impact became more salient with Nixon's announcement in 1971 that he would go to China. This was quickly followed by a Japanese agreement with Beijing to normalise relations (1972). Nonetheless, China remained an extremely weak economic power, with nearly 25 per cent of the world's population, but only just over 2 per cent of global GDP. Market reforms and opening to global trade and investment began to transform China from the end of the 1970s, leading to the country's rise, first as a regional, and then as a global economic power.

Following its admission to the WTO in 2001, China became an important issue in EU–Japan and even trans-Atlantic relations for the first time by 2004. China was identified by the EU as a strategic partner in 2003. Yet EU proposals to lift the arms embargo imposed on China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square incident, provoked Japanese and US opposition. By 2010, China overtook Japan to become the world's second largest economy. China's rise posed a distinctive challenge to the liberal international order led by the US and supported by the EU and Japan, due to the country's presence as a largely non-liberal power with an authoritarian political system. Today's so-called 'Beijing Consensus' sees China promoting a model of authoritarian-led economic development, challenging Western models. China's economic rise arguably helped to undermine the fortunes of working classes in Western countries, while the country's political rise itself seemed to challenge more generally the dominance of the Western liberal order and liberalism as promoted by the US, the EU, and Japan.

China's rise thus appears to be one factor driving the spread of illiberalism globally and even within the Western world, where growing domestic economic inequalities are increasing. The influence of an illiberal and revanchist Russia, plus other factors such as technological change; massive refu-

gee flows created by the Arab Spring, especially the civil war in Syria; the rise of radical politicised Islam, and perhaps even the balkanising effects of the spread of social media on news and the lack of objective recognition of facts, have all contributed to the decline of liberalism. This spread of illiberalism is a challenge facing the EU and Japan alike. Even inside the EU and Japan we can see the potentially menacing growth of illiberalism.

In the US, still the global liberal hegemon, we also see the rise of illiberalism. This phenomenon had already begun in the first few years of the 21st century, well before the political rise of Donald Trump. The decline of human rights included a willingness to engage in torture, indefinite detention of suspects without trial, increasing surveillance of citizens and a disregard for international institutions.

Signing an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and a binding Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) in 2018, the EU and Japan planned to lead developments back to a fuller liberal order. The fact that the two managed to conclude a free trade agreement covering 30 percent of the world's GDP is partly a result of the changing power structure in the 21st century. The EPA provides the basis for streamlining conditions for a fair and free trade policy and signals a commitment to that. The SPA, signed at the same time, does not have a firm roadmap. It is underpinned by shared values and principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Based on the principles of mutual respect, equal partnership and respect for international law, Japan, EU and the Member States have agreed to cooperate in and coordinate policies in more than 40 different areas. A Joint Committee has been assigned to supervise the implementation of this.

The move in 2015 from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has changed the perception of what development cooperation should look like. More than ten times as much money will be needed to achieve the SDGs. Meanwhile the contribution of Official Development Assistance (government aid) as a percentage of total flows to developing countries is shrinking. Private institutions and business are now being actively encouraged to assist with funding. Development cooperation is no longer only about poverty reduction but also

about climate change, decent work and economic growth, clean water, affordable and clean energy and development of industry, innovation and infrastructure. It has also become a political tool, used for security reasons. Both the EU and Japan are champions of development cooperation. They have the financial resources as well as knowledge to assist other countries, both for humanitarian reasons and for their own sake.

## The Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure

Connectivity is not politically neutral, and this agreement is part of an effort by both (EU and Japan) to revive multilateralism. Sustainable connectivity has become a buzz word in EU politics and quality infrastructure is something that Japan has been heavily promoting. Let us consider whether these concepts mean the same thing for both.

In a paper titled 'Learning from the Competition - China's, Japan's and the EU's Infrastructure Connectivity Rule Setting in Asia'<sup>5</sup> authors Caixia Mao and Lukas Maximilian Müller compare China, Japan and EU development assistance on infrastructure connectivity based on the following dimensions: (1) the breadth of their infrastructure support (2) the comparative advantage the support is based on; (3) the character of resources provided; and (4) the degree of bilateralism/multilateralism. What emerges are three quite distinct ways of seeing infrastructure connectivity.

The authors conclude that the Chinese perspective lacks clarity and has a 'win-win'; basis for economic prosperity, the Japanese perspective defines it as international public good and a basis for economic prosperity and the EU perspective views it as sustainable infrastructure, emphasising physical links as the basis for economic prosperity. The comparative advantages are also very different. China, with its own development experience and rapid build-up of physical links, has flexibility and pragmatism as well as financial, material and labour resources. Japan, with technological leadership, has economic efficiency and low life-cycle costs and represents operational safety, resilience against natural disasters, consideration of environmental and social impacts as well as high contribution to local society and economy. The

5 <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342065144> or <https://www.southeastasianstudies.uni-freiburg.de/documents/occasional-paper/op45.pdf>

EU's comparative advantage is common market experience, multi-modal transport networks and environmental and social sustainability. Concerning the character of resources, the Chinese approach is state-led, encompassing financial and labour resources, the Japanese approach is private sector-driven, encompassing financial and technological aspects and the EU approach is also private sector led, often encompassing technical cooperation and regional-level cooperation. Multilateralism featured more prominently in Japan and in the EU, although the Chinese pattern is moving in this direction.

This comparison clearly shows that infrastructure connectivity can mean different things. Though more closely aligned, EU and Japanese visions are not necessarily the same either, which is likely to lead to different priorities for projects, when it comes to type and geographical location. This may well cause challenges for further cooperation.

The EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure, however is a wider concept that not only covers physical infrastructure but cuts across all aspects of living conditions. There are four basic fields:

- Diversified trade and travel routes linking existing and future transport networks. In Japan, this is referred to as quality infrastructure development. Strategic investment in critical infrastructure creates economic and political interdependencies, both hard and soft ones.
- Energy platforms, interconnected regionally, modern energy systems and environmentally friendly solutions.
- Digital -Increased access to digital services that maintain a high level of protection of consumer and personal data.
- Human dimension-advanced cooperation in education, research innovation, culture and tourism.

The need for infrastructure regarding trade and travel transport, in Asia in particular, is huge. Chinese contribution is welcome but there is a fear among traditional donors that it may not be offered in a fair way and without transparency, as mentioned earlier. On the second point, energy platforms and environmentally-friendly solutions are fields of great interest to the EU (with its new Green Deal) and Japan. Both regions signed the Paris (climate) Agreement and have adhered to it. Digital cooperation, which encompasses a num-

ber of regulatory reforms, is on its way but there are hurdles that still must be passed to exchange as well as protect data on both company and personal levels. The prevention of free movement of people due to the COVID 19 has made digital connection all the more important. In the human dimension the virus and attempts to control its spread demonstrate that there must be multilateral solutions to solve health issues. The virus is creating a lot of human suffering. A global vaccine might lessen suffering but COVID 19 has already brought big changes and our societies are not likely to go back to the way they formerly functioned before the crisis. The world is changing and the question is how to move forward. The EU and Japan share the same liberal values; they are cooperating to build a sustainable future world.

The EU is strongly advocating cooperation with Asia in the field of sustainable connectivity. This connectivity and infrastructure drive is part of a wider push by the EU to transform itself from 'payer to player,' where trade, aid, and investments should be used together to achieve strategic foreign policy goals. This involves EU plans to deploy 60 billion euros to leverage investment many times that value in order to improve ties between Europe and Asia. Quality infrastructure was a concept launched by Japan, partly to distinguish its foreign development cooperation actions from China's infrastructure drive. The EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure Agreement combines the aspirations of both the EU and Japan. It was signed in Brussels on 27 September 2019. One day before this, a cooperation agreement was signed between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Such agreements between the EIB and the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), as well as with Nippon Export and Investment Insurance were already in place before the explosive outbreak of COVID 19.

## Infrastructure connectivity at Present

Since March 2020 COVID-19 has dominated the news and the political scene both in EU and Japan. In spite of this unrest EU-Japan political and strategic cooperation has been ongoing, under the radar. Development Cooperation is one such area. As mentioned above, a move from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted by all UN members in 2015. There are new goals,

leading to a new aid architecture or rather, an international partnership architecture which implies wider and deeper cooperation with non members of OECDs Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and with other sources such as private industry and various NGOs.

Japan used to be considered the odd man out in development cooperation. Although it has been a DAC member since the start of that organisation in 1964 and, during the 1990s, was the world's largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA), Japanese aid approach has always been a bit different from other DAC donors in the heavy emphasis on economic infrastructure and loan aid. Due to the shift from the MDGs to the SDGs many other donors, including the EU, are now following in Japan's footsteps. This implies an emphasis on economic infrastructure: building, roads railways and ports, categorised as transport in the EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure. Historically, Japanese assistance has close cooperation with Japanese private companies, a fact which has not been well-regarded by other DAC donors, but is now promoted because such huge sums are needed to achieve the SDGs. There is a yearly Development Dialogue ongoing between EU and Japan. In February 2021 they listed examples to illustrate Japan-EU synergies and complementarity on sustainable connectivity and quality infrastructure. This became quite a long list (see box below) proving that cooperation in the field of infrastructure is already established and that the implementation of the connectivity and infrastructure agreement is progressing.

In connection with the SPA the EU also created a special support facility to assist EU-Japan cooperation in various areas. During last year they conducted a series of nine webinars with European and Japanese experts on COVID-19 exploring various themes such as green recovery, business, and digitalisation and culminating with a webinar on connectivity. EU has taken a rather structural approach to find out where and how EU-Japan cooperation can be implemented. An EU-Japan Joint Study on Connectivity Cooperation is now being undertaken. The first objective of this study is to identify flagship projects, sectors and countries in the regions of the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. A second objective is to promote private investment and facilitate financ-

ing of sustainable connectivity including possible joint projects with the engagement of the private sector. Three EU and three Japanese experts have been commissioned to conduct the study.

Starting with one of the focus areas Japan's Prime Minister Abe announced the 'Western Balkans (WB) Cooperation Initiative' in January 2018, to support socio-economic reforms and facilitate ethnic reconciliation there. An EU WB strategy was also announced in 2018 to reinforce cooperation, addressing the specific challenges the WB faces, in particular, the need for fundamental reforms and good neighbourly relations. The EU's credible enlargement perspective requires sustained efforts and irreversible reforms. These two initiatives were partly a response to the Chinese – Central and Eastern (CEE) initiative (the 17+1) in which China has set up a special fund of 10 billion euros to increase trade and investment with the WB.<sup>6</sup>

Three countries, namely Serbia, Bosnia and Albania, have been targeted for further studies of local needs; the EU and Japan have existing projects and projects in the pipeline, backed by financial resources. Interviews have already been held with EU and Japanese stakeholders such as directorates, ministries, financial institutions, and businesses. Most of these have been conducted over the web due to COVID 19. The original aim was to send out a mutual EU-Japan mission to gather research on local needs and create a field report, but COVID 19 prevented that. In April 2021 local experts conducted interviews instead to assess local needs.

In Eastern Europe (EE) the EU-Japanese expert team will focus on Azerbaijan as well as Ukraine. Of importance here is implementing power generation and road repair rather than digital and human connectivity. Business interests are substantial in Azerbaijan and the aim is to provide private capital. Ukraine is the largest country in the region with strategic importance and a long border with the EU. This country would offer the biggest possibilities for public and private connectivity projects. As in the WB, local needs were mapped in April. To find so called blue-sky projects of joint EU-Japan connectivity cooperation with a high potential impact is another aim of the joint study team. Here Ukraine might be an optimal focus country. In Central Asia (CA) the EU-Japanese Study team

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6 Werner Pascha, *Belts, Roads and Regions: The Dynamics of Chinese and Japanese Connectivity Initiatives and Europe's Responses*, ADBI Working Paper Series, No 1114, April 2020

will focus on Uzbekistan where the potential for public and private projects is considered large.

The ambassadors in these countries have been asked to support the study. Its final report will be finished in May 2021. Because the view of the local needs, which is extremely important, is still missing due to the difficulties of travelling due to Covid19, it is very hard to pinpoint where and what kind of cooperation on connectivity EU and Japan would want to promote at this stage. Some reflections of what has been learnt so far are available. Even if specific countries are selected, the EU in general wants a regional approach while Japan seems more interested in concrete projects. The two have very different rules for procurement and this makes it difficult to cooperate on bigger projects in the transport and energy sector, even if both sides in principle are interested in cooperation. Regulation will also determine how concrete project proposals can be. According to EU sources, the Japanese side has a more nationalistic approach, which does not promote cooperation. One way of resolving this might be to split projects into parts where the regions would each finance one part. Another way of resolving this would be to create a new fund with new rules that promote cooperation. The EU side, on the other hand, can be very split, with different member countries wanting different things, making consensus difficult. Minor and less fancy projects like road rehabilitation and weighting equipment for trucks provide an easier focus for cooperation. Another area for collaboration would be mutual road shows and business events.

In the digital field, which, after COVID 19, has gained further importance, the focus is often the treatment of data, privacy issues, regulations, and what needs to be done so that some of the countries can enter into existing frameworks. Artificial Intelligence is also being studied. In the field of people-to-people cooperation there is more flexibility and less money involved. Here it could be possible to find quite visible projects in the fields of education, research and innovation, culture and sport, for instance. These are easy picks for showcasing EU-Japan connectivity cooperation. Another geographical area that EU-Japan cooperation on quality infrastructure can target is India, where the EU is planning for a new connectivity agreement from May.

On February 26, 2021, during the third meeting of the Joint Committee under the EU-Japan SPA (which was held virtually), 'the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastruc-

ture between Japan and the EU' was discussed. Japan and the EU shared the view to continue enhancing cooperation in such fields as multilateralism, sustainable connectivity, quality infrastructure and global issues, including climate change and other environmental issues as well as security policy. The EU and Japan affirmed their commitment to strengthen multilateralism, democracy and the rules-based international order. They underscored their efforts to protect lives and mitigate the social and economic consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic, as well as to contribute as closely-aligned partners to global public policy in key fora such as the G7, G20 and the United Nations system. The EU and Japan exchanged views on their respective approaches to the Indo-Pacific region. This included a discussion on the ongoing implementation of the EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure there.

What is clear from the above is that EU and Japan are currently taking a systematic approach to implement the Partnership. They are conducting mutual hearings on the needs in third countries and turning over a number of stones to find mutual cooperation projects in the fields of connectivity and infrastructure. COVID-19 has, to a certain extent, slowed the process, but it has also afforded an opportunity for the EU and Japan to increase cooperation as old structures change. Both regions are determined to rebuild more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economies and societies. The EU's Green Deal and Japan's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 offer promising new opportunities for a stronger alliance for cooperation on climate change and other environmental issues. In these very turbulent times people are ready and actually expecting a change. Health has become a top issue and COVID 19 has made it obvious that multilateral solutions are needed. Sustainable connectivity built on Japanese and EU shared norms and standard settings can be used to create a better world.

## Proposals for Further Cooperation in Connectivity and Infrastructure

- Listen to the needs of developing countries and select a few flagship projects that the EU and Japan cooperate on. Be sure to make these visible to the world. It could be carbon neutral power plants, electric buses, windmills or solar energy parks. Why not let nurses or military medical personnel provide Covid vaccine stations and, with their flags raised, offer free vaccinations to poor people.
- COVID 19 has forced governments to provide huge extra budgets. Financial resources are available. This is not ODA money only, but also finance from loans for public-private cooperation in various fields of infrastructure development. Different rules and regulations should not be allowed to prevent co-financing of EU-Japan projects. Unconventional financial solutions should be found. Divide projects or create new mutual funds if necessary.
- Source private companies interested in cooperation and create incentives for them to do so. Why not make a competition for 'The EU-Japan cooperation project of the year'? Winners should be awarded and made visible.
- Work on media. Organise mutual study tours to cooperation projects.
- Rely on civil society to a much larger extent, especially when it comes to human connectivity. Many people are eager to assist in protecting biodiversity, for example. Let JICA and DG INTPA<sup>7</sup> create projects where civil society can participate.
- Use the internet and create various programmes where EU and Japanese people can connect. Create special ones with sustainability education for schoolchildren. Let them learn solutions from each other.

This list of proposals should be made much longer. The EU and Japan have the knowledge, education and experience as well as economic resources to play centre stage and make a strong contribution to a sustainable world order. Connectivity is the

glue that can drive the process forward. Success will depend on the broadmindedness of the people involved, as well as the will of politicians to implement unconventional ideas.

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7 The Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships is responsible for formulating the EU's international partnership and development policy, with the ultimate goal to reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development, and promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world. On 16 January 2021, the Directorate General (DG) International Cooperation and Development (DEVECO) officially became DG International Partnerships (INTPA). This new name, together with its mission statement and structure, underlines the importance of the role of international partnerships in positioning the European Union (EU) in the world as a development actor working towards the eradication of poverty, the achievement of sustainable development objectives and the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.



## BOX. 1 Cooperation on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure<sup>8</sup>

In Southeast Asia's **Mekong region** both Japan and the EU support water resource management and sustainable development of the Mekong River as Development Partners of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and provide funding programmes for the Lower Mekong Region. Both Japan and the EU support **ASEAN** in the area of disaster management by providing funds to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). Both sides also work on enhancing the capacity building of the regional ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT). In the **Pacific region** they support maritime resources management, waste management and sustainable energy. The EU established the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC-Pacific) and Japan will dispatch a regional advisor for port operation, maintenance and policy to the MTCC-Pacific. The EU established the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme, and Japan implements the Capacity Enhancement Project for the Sustainable Development and Sound Management in Fisheries. The EU finances the Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme (PacWaste Plus), and Japan conducts technical cooperation on the Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries. Both programmes support the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Japan implements the Project for the Introduction of Hybrid Power Generation System in the Pacific Island Countries, and the EU implements the European Union-Pacific Technical and Vocational Training on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation. In **Central Asia** both Japan and the EU support the border management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. At a border crossing point in Dehkonkhona, the facilities are funded by the EU on the Afghan side and by Japan on the Tajik side. Japan and the EU contribute to infrastructure development in **Africa** in line with the Programme for Infrastructure Development for **Africa** (PIDA) 2021-2030. In **Mozambique** they support the road construction of the Nacala Corridor and co-finance the rehabilitation of the Nampula-Cuamba

Road. In **Burkina Faso** they support the Burkina Faso-Niger Corridor Road Rehabilitation Project. Japan and the EU fund various projects in the West Africa Growth Ring Corridor Master Plan. They also support the improvement of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor (one of the major target corridors of the West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan), as well as market integration and enhancing customs administration capacity in the region, including **Cote d'Ivoire**. In **Uganda** they support the improvement of the Northern Corridor, which connects Uganda with Kenya and Rwanda. Japan supports the enhancement of power transmission and distribution capacity through the improvement of electricity transmission grids in Kampala, while the EU supports the development of a hydroelectric facility and construction of transmission lines in Bujagali.

<sup>8</sup> Japan-EU Development Cooperation, Factsheet made by Japan (MOFA) and DG INTPA on Feb 5 <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100146628.pdf>

## The Global Governance Programme

*The Global Governance Programme (GGP) is research turned into action. It provides a European setting to conduct research at the highest level and promote synergies between the worlds of research and policy-making, to generate ideas and identify creative and innovative solutions to global challenges. The Programme is part of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute, a world-renowned academic institution. It receives financial support from the European Commission through the European Union budget. Complete information on our activities can be found online at: [globalgovernanceprogramme.eui.eu](http://globalgovernanceprogramme.eui.eu)*

## Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

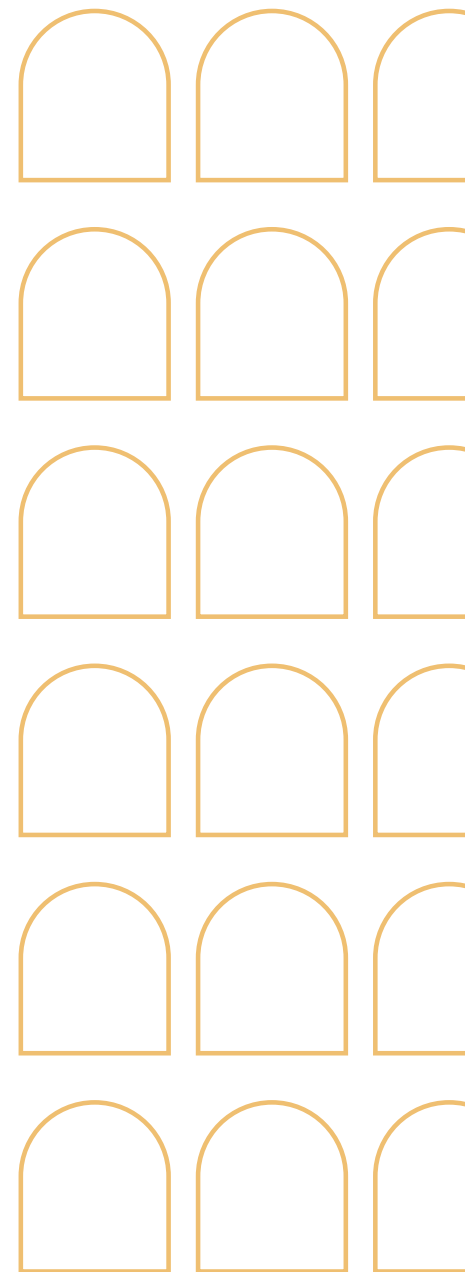
*The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS), created in 1992 and directed by Professor Brigid Laffan, aims to develop inter-disciplinary and comparative research on the major issues facing the process of European integration, European societies and Europe's place in 21<sup>st</sup> century global politics. The Centre is home to a large post-doctoral programme and hosts major research programmes, projects and data sets, in addition to a range of working groups and ad hoc initiatives. The research agenda is organised around a set of core themes and is continuously evolving, reflecting the changing agenda of European integration, the expanding membership of the European Union, developments in Europe's neighbourhood and the wider world.*

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