

**Meeting between Minister Hayashi (MEXT, Japan) and Commissioner Moedas (Research, Science and Innovation, European Commission)  
(2018/01/08, Brussels)**

The results of the Meeting are as follows:

**1. Introduction**

- Both sides welcomed recent Japan-EU developments such as the finalisation of negotiations on the Japan-EU EPA and the fruitful discussions at the 4<sup>th</sup> Japan-EU Joint S&T Committee meeting on November 24 in Tokyo.
- Both sides shared the view that Japan and Europe need to strengthen their ties for collaborations in STI as two of the most pro-STI actors, when STI needs to play more active roles to tackle with our social and global issues (e.g. sustainable development), and international collaborations among STI actors including the US and other partners are necessary.

**2. Enhancement of cooperation of young researchers**

- Both sides discussed measures to enhance exchange and cooperation between European and Japanese researchers with emphasis on young researchers, which led to the possibility of establishing a new framework between ERC and JST.
- Both sides welcomed the success of ERC-JSPS cooperation framework since 2015, and discussed the possibility of establishing an Implementing Arrangement between ERC and JST and the accelerating effects that may have on the expansion of researcher exchange opportunities, as both JSPS and JST are major funding agencies in Japan.
- Both sides took note that the new ERC-JST cooperation framework may expand outreach to Japanese research community through many of JST funding programs such as Strategic Basic Research Programs (e.g. CREST, Sakigake (PRESTO))
- ERC agreed that a proposal by JST could be taken into consideration provided that all requirements are fulfilled. Both sides shared the view that their services can accelerate discussions and expected a positive outcome as early as possible. This will allow them to announce the signature of the Implementing Arrangement to the research community before the next round of calls in autumn 2018.

**3. Future collaboration in quantum technology**

- Both sides shared recent policy developments on each side in quantum technology, discussed possibilities of future research collaboration, and shared the importance of enhancing collaboration between Europe and Japan toward the second quantum revolution.

- Both sides agreed to continue working level discussions and exploration of collaboration opportunities, i.e. enhancing institutional level interactions and supporting research collaboration, for example, and that contacts between the respective services could be established in 2018 for exchanging ideas on potential cooperation and to discuss opportunities to convene a possible workshop in quantum technology.

#### **4. Future collaboration in Arctic science**

- Both sides shared recent efforts in Arctic science and contributions to the Arctic Council on each side, and shared the view that Europe and Japan have important roles to play in research and international discussions in Arctic science.

- Both sides took note of the coming 2<sup>nd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting (Oct 2018, Berlin) co-hosted by European Commission, and the success of the Ministerial Meeting with Japan's participation and scientific contributions.

#### **5. Discussion on the global trend of STI policies**

- Both sides exchanged their views on the global trend of STI policies as two of the most pro-STI actors in this age of uncertainty. Topics included the 5<sup>th</sup> Science and Technology Basic Plan and its implementation in Japan, Horizon 2020 and its implementation in Europe, and discussions toward the next Basic Plan and Framework Programme, both of which plan to start from 2021.