REPORT ON THE

PUBLIC-PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

AHEAD OF THE

2ND EU-JAPAN DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

MEETING

Workshop Date: 17 April 2024

FINAL REPORT

Summary of Recommendations from the Workshop

TOPIC	Main Recommendations
General Cooperation	1. Maintain ongoing discussions and information sharing on regulatory developments (Digital Europe; JBCE). 2. Continue to engage closely and regularly with stakeholders (BRT; JBCE). 3. Continue to work together to shape digital global trade, including for WTO e-commerce rules (BRT).
Artificial Intelligence	1. Drive forward the Hiroshima G7 process (Digital Europe). 2. Maintain discussions to ensure bilateral alignment, and a common position in multilateral fora. (Digital Europe). 3. Promote regulatory alignment between the EU and Japan on GenAI (JBCE). 4. Promote AI sandboxes and testbeds with a focus on GenAI (JBCE). 5. Focus on GenAI and Robotics, including research cooperation (ADRA). 6. Promote trustworthy AI labelling initiatives (ADRA). 7. Develop a mutual recognition agreement of conformity assessment / international standards on AI (ADRA). 8. Develop close alignment between AISI and the EU's AI Office (JBCE). 9. Pursue EU-Japan joint initiatives on skills development (ADRA).
Semiconductors	1. Identify and fund use cases and pilot projects for fostering iindustry collaboration, including early stage R&D and beyond, and on greening the sector (ESIA/LSTC) 2. Identify key target domains, such as HPC or autonomous vehicles and establish enhanced partnerships (ESIA) 3. Promote advanced skills development and knowledge exchange programmes, as well as talent retention/attraction incentives (ESIA).
Quantum Research & Innovation	1. Issue joint statements to shape the narrative on quantum, including in international fora (QUIC). 2. Support bilateral collaboration between quantum industry groups (QUIC). 3. Promote education and training of professionals for the quantum industry (QUIC). 4. Collaborate on testbeds in areas such as interoperability, hybridisation, standards and the software stack. 5. Promote a level playing field for industry in the EU and Japan (QUIC). 6. Support trade of goods and services between the EU and Japan (QUIC). 7. Promote Information exchanges, study visits and research exchange. 8. Maintain discussions on use cases or middleware platforms (Q-Star).
Cybersecurity	1. Promote cooperation on: a. Threat intelligence sharing (standards and interoperability; public-private cooperation). b. Supply chain security (dependencies; security measures; components). c. Harmonised standards and regulations. d. Operational technology issues (certificates, assessment methods, vulnerability disclosures, incident reporting, R&D, standards). e. Capacity building for human resources (ECSO). 2. The EU should be aware of concerns on EUCS sovereignty requirements (JANE). 3. The EU should be aware that Japanese companies are finding it difficult to follow EU cyber security legislation (JANE). 4. The EU and Japan should ensure cooperation on standard setting among standardization experts for the EU CRA and the Japanese IoT labelling scheme (JANE). 5. The EU and Japan should seek mutual interoperability/ mutual recognition, on cybersecurity standardisation and conformity assessment (JANE). 6. Explore possibility of using the Digital Product Passport (ECSO).

Submarine Cables	1. Recognise importance for economic security (Nordunet). 2. Recognise possible benefits of shorter routes across the Arctic (Nordunet). 3. Recognise the necessity of connectivity, maintenance and repair as well as governmental support to ensure security and resilience of submarine cable networks (NEC).
Digital Identity	1. EU activity on travel, payments and organisational identity could be linked with Japan (EWC). Japan will be linked to the digital ID and personal wallet. 2. Recommended discussions on the scope of interoperability and underlying frameworks (e.g on macros or syntax). 3. Identify use cases that could champion interoperability and facilitate cross-border flows (Keio University).
Other areas of Cooperation Recommended during the Workshop	
5G and Beyond 5G	1. Cooperate on 6G research (Digital Europe). 2. Cooperate on advanced research for 6G, promotion of open 5G networks, encouraging competition, and facilitating sharing of practical use cases (BRT).
DFFT	1. Maintain continued dialogue and engagement on DFFT (Digital Europe; BRT; JBCE). 2. Promote data spaces and a specific working group on standards and interoperability (JBCE). 3. Develop green projects to test data utilisation, format of data, or APIs (JEITA). 4. Workshops on the digital product passport (JBCE).
R&D Cooperation	1. Encourage Japan's Association to Horizon Europe (JBCE).
Standards	1. Facilitate access of Japanese organisations to European standard setting organisations (JBCE). 2. Cross border standards for generative AI (JBCE).
Skills	1. Promote EU-Japan skill exhanges on AI (ADRA). 2. Promote Information exchanges, study visits and research exchange on quantum (QUIC).

1. Background on the Stakeholder Workshop

1.1 Context of the stakeholder workshop

Since 2022 the EU-Japan- Digital Partnership[1] has advanced cooperation on digital issues as a flexible cooperation instrument for concrete deliverables. The EU-Japan Digital Partnership covers a wide range of areas, including semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum, 5G/6G, submarine cables, data governance, online platforms, digital identity and cybersecurity. This reflects the positive ambitions between Japan and the EU for digital technologies.

1.2 Objectives of the stakeholder workshop

The First EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council took place in Tokyo on 3 July, 2023, and identified a number of cooperation priorities for digital technologies. These priorities include semiconductors, AI, high performance computing and quantum, Beyond 5G, data governance and Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), digital connectivity, platforms, and cybersecurity.

The **second EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council** will take place at the ministerial level in Brussels on 30 April 2024.

Ahead of this second Council meeting, it was essential to **engage with stakeholders**. To that end, a Workshop was organised on 17 April that would undertake a dialogue with stakeholders on the Partnership. As explained to participants, the purpose of the Workshop was to:

- Introduce and promote the work done under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership so far;
- Provide stakeholders an opportunity to exchange views or provide feedback on the Partnership;
- Allow for the identification of new priority topics or develop ideas, engagement and commitments from stakeholders towards the EU-Japan Digital Partnership.

1.3 Organisation of the stakeholder workshop

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[2].

The first session in the workshop allowed stakeholders to give a broad-brush overview of priority areas for the partnership (views from stakeholders session), with presentations by major industry associations (Digital Europe, the EU-Japan Business Roundtable (BRT), the Japan Business Council Europe (JBCE), and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)).

This session was then followed by in-depth sessions that focused on the following six topics:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Semiconductors
- Quantum Research and Innovation
- Cyber Security
- Submarine Cables
- Digital Identity

Under each of these sessions, government first set the scene and provided an update on what had been undertaken so far in the context of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, as well as what can be expected going forward. For the first three sessions (AI, Semiconductors, and Quantum) the EU side

[1] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/56091/%E6%9C%80%E7%B5%82%E7%89%88-jp-eu-digital-partnership-clean-final-docx.pdf
[2] https://eprd.pl/en/dpa

gave the overview for the government side. For the final three sessions, the Government of Japan gave the overview.

Following this government level overview, the stakeholders then provided their input in the form of a structured 5 minute intervention. Under each session there was a representative association from both the EU and Japan.

Clear guidance was given ahead of the event that the focus for each presentation should be on:

- Any possible issues or suitable areas for cooperation to enhance EU-Japan digital cooperation.
- Present key suggestions or proposals for action in the context of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership work programme.
- Be concise, focused, and limited to 3-4 slides.

The Workshop was chaired by **Peter FATELNIG**, Minister-Counsellor, Digital Economy Policy, **Delegation of the European Union to Japan**.

The workshop was held online, using the Webex platform.

2. Summary Recommendations of the Stakeholder Workshop

2.1 Summary Results and Recommendations

Over **20 different organisations**, mostly business associations and academic bodies, presented at the workshop, to an audience of **211 participants**[3]**.**

A post-event feedback survey suggested **positive feedback** on the workshop. The majority of participants responded that they found the workshop to be **very interesting**, **well organised**, and helpful/useful. Some comments included:

> *"Very interesting discussions, look forward to the next stakeholder workshop"*
>
> *"Good to know what the different sectors are working on and how the digital partnership can help. I cannot wait for the day when we can evaluate what the effects of the partnership has been in all these projects."*
>
> *"It would be a great pleasure and honour to participate to future workshops on digital identity, to identify common and cross-border use-cases that can bring value for Japanese and European governments, private sector and citizens."*
>
> *"It was very promising to hear so many speakers mention the importance of cooperation in Standardization. CEN and CENELEC deeply value our strong relationship with the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee, with 2024 marking the 10-year anniversary of our cooperation agreement. We have a number of cooperation activities in place, including annual strategic meetings and technical observerships. Perhaps for a future workshop, you could consider inviting us as a speaker to highlight this cooperation and receive feedback on how to strengthen this cooperation (as many speakers outlined this as a priority for their work)."*
>
> *"Very nice Workshop. Well organized. Especially, the Submarine part was very interesting! Thank you."*

High-level outcomes from the Workshop are:

- The EU-Japan Digital Partnership is a trust-based partnership that does not take place in isolation of broader socio-economic developments and geo-political context. This partnership

[3] It should be noted that out of the 211 actual participants, the maximum number of participants connected at the same time was 149 with most of them participating in the entire workshop (107 participants were still online during the closing session). In terms of registrations, 216 participants registered to the event using the dedicated online registration form while additional 213 registered as attendees in the dedicated LinkedIn Page created for the event (though some attendees may have actually registered to both). 211 registrations, 150 actually workshop participants.

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.

3. Workshop's Proceedings

3.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

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, underlying the 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 and concrete action, alignment and enhanced cooperation

3.2 Stakeholders' Views

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)**.

The key messages and recommendations of each stakeholder are summarised below:

DIGITALEUROPE

Key messages

DIGITALEUROPE represents more than 45,000 businesses across Europe. Digital Europe recognised that the Digital Partnership is essential for the future digital landscape. By working together, the EU and Japan can leverage each other's strengths and learn from each other's experiences.

DIGITALEUROPE is a staunch supporter of international alignment on guiding principles for AI governance and a supporter of the G7 AI Hiroshima Process. This process should continue under the Italian G7 Presidency. DIGITALEUROPE supports this process and will engage in Tech7 this year, and co-signed a letter to the G7 from all Tech7 associations.

For promoting AI, robust, ultra-fast, and reliable connectivity is required. EU-Japan cooperation on pioneering 6G research and development is thus vital.

Data is a crucial resource, driving innovations and empowering economies. DIGITALEUROPE supported the conclusion of the EU-Japan data flow agreement for seamless data transfers, the next

challenge is to ensure that data flows are safe, secure, and respect the privacy of individuals. DFFT could therefore set a benchmark for global data governance.

In conclusion, DIGITAL EUROPE proposed a call to action with four key recommendations:

Key Recommendations by Digital Europe:

1. **Embrace Collaboration:** The EU and Japan must intensify collaborative efforts, pooling resources, knowledge, and expertise. This is notably the case for enhanced collaboration on Economic Security.
2. **Advocate for Ethical AI:** regulators should provide frameworks that balance innovation with protection and drive forward the G7 Hiroshima AI process.
3. **Accelerate 6G Initiatives:** industries must collaborate on 6G research and governments shall facilitate its development, while communities should engage in its potential applications.
4. **Engage in Continuous Dialogue with Stakeholders:** Regular strategic dialogues with stakeholders are essential.

EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT)

Key messages

The BRT considers it essential that EU-Japan collaboration address global challenges, focusing on digitalization, environmental sustainability, and economic security. Policy coordination across these domains is essential.

The BRT also advocated for engagement with stakeholders to ensure the societal acceptance and proper implementation of digital technologies.

The BRT stressed the significance of promoting the DFFT and supporting initiatives for digital sovereignty without hindering market access. It also encourages EU-Japan collaboration on cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and regulatory matters and emphasises the importance of sharing best practices and mutual support.

Finally, Japan and the EU need to reinforce initiatives to assist SMEs and startups in expanding their business overseas, fostering more connected ecosystems and unlocking growth potential.

Building on the key recommendations on digital innovation and mobility issues adopted by BRT on 7 November 2023,[4] the following proposals have been advanced during the Workshop:

Key Recommendations by the BRT

1. **Mobility:** Reinforce strategic cooperation between the EU and Japanese authorities and businesses to reduce dependencies. Essential measures include targeted funding for EV battery technology, production, and charging infrastructure alongside renewable energy expansion. Clear legal frameworks for interconnected, automated, and autonomous vehicles, addressing ethical and safety concerns while facilitating data use, are crucial and require active support from both sides.
2. **DFFT:** Strengthening 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. The BRT also advocates for continued dialogue to understand regulatory frameworks, particularly in areas like data governance and IoT, supporting

[4] See BRT Working Party 3 paper – https://www.eu-japan.eu/sites/default/files/brt/pastmeetings/2023/brt2023_wp3_en.pdf

the EU-Japan Green Alliance's objectives. Additionally, the BRT calls for coordinated governance of the Digital Partnership, allowing industry input to drive its development.

3. **Cybersecurity:** BRT urges to harmonise cybersecurity standards, lead in quantum computer age security, and promote mutual adoption of technologies. Additionally, cooperation in developing new security technologies for quantum computing is encouraged for ensuring building a Safe, Secure and Trusted Digital Society
4. **Connectivity:** BRT recommends to strengthen cooperation in advanced research for 6G, promote open 5G networks, encourage competition, and facilitate the sharing of practical use cases. BRT also emphasises ensuring universal access to high-speed connectivity, establishing policy frameworks for investment, and promoting trustworthy, open, and secure 5G/6G infrastructure.
5. **Semiconductors:** BRT recommends to actively participate in the semiconductor value chain, foster cooperation in chip manufacturing, and collaborate on sourcing critical minerals while promoting supply chain resilience, particularly in the automotive sector, also highlighting the importance of a stable supply of critical minerals for industry transformation, advocating for strategic cooperation.
6. **Skill Development:** BRT urges to invest in raising awareness and educating all generations on digital transformation, including cybersecurity, AI, robotics, metaverse, and blockchain, while supporting skills development for emerging job opportunities.
7. **Aeronautics:** BRT calls on the EU and Japanese Authorities to establish a permanent dialogue aiming to significantly upgrade the scale of EU- Japan industrial cooperation in aeronautics based upon mutual trust, equality and mutual benefits, and stimulated by government funding. Accelerate the digital transformation
8. **Digital Maturity Centres and Talent attraction:** BRT urges Japanese Authorities to establish digital maturity centres within universities to support competitiveness through R&D and manufacturing advancements, bridging the gap by merging international best practices with Japanese excellence to regain market share lost due to lagging digital transformation, as well as to enhance the value of living in Japan to attract top talent, emphasizing the need for competitive compensation aligned with the global market.

Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)

Key messages

In 2022, prior to the EU-Japan summit, JBCE, together with JEITA and DIGITALEUROPE, compiled a comprehensive proposal for EU-Japan digital cooperation. JBCE commended the progress made such as GreenxDigital, the promotion of DFFT, a human-centric use of AI and the institutional harmonisation of cybersecurity, strengthening competitiveness and supply chain resilience in the semiconductor sector.

For the further development of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, it is essential that policy proposals from the business sectors of both regions are timely and accurately delivered to EU leaders and the Japanese government. Therefore the workshop was well received.

JBCE observed the importance of concepts such as Economic Security or Tech Sovereignty, and the need to translate then into policy, such as ensuring cybersecurity in infrastructure or IoT products, advancing cutting-edge technologies, and developing various standards and norms which favour competitiveness.

EU-Japan relations should form the basis for the promotion of various digital policies and the development of international standards and norms.

JBCE raised the following points for the future development of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership.

Key Recommendations by the JBCE:

1. **Japan should be Associated to Horizon Europe:** JBCE strongly encourages the EU-Japan Digital Partnership to support the ongoing negotiations for Japan to join the Horizon Europe Programme as an Associated Country. To this end it suggests the Digital Partnership to co-organise or sponsor workshops for Japanese stakeholders in order to inform them about the added value of Associated Country status. JBCE also calls for an increase in 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.
2. **Taking the DFFT to the next stage:** The EU-Japan Digital Partnership should focus on Data Spaces in order to support rapid alignment of interconnecting technologies and interoperability requirements and facilitate the operation of Data Spaces in both regions. JBCE suggest that this should be done by organising EU-Japan Working Groups focusing on priority Data Spaces, focusing on standards and interoperability issues with the involvement of key players, stakeholders, and possible users. With regards to the Digital Product Passport, JBCE would welcome the organisation of awareness raising workshops in Japan and in Europe to help Japanese and European companies understand not only the regulatory practicalities and requirements related to digital product passports (DPP) but also potential benefits of such solutions.
3. **Standards harmonisation:** JBCE believes that harmonisation of standards between the EU and Japan is a cornerstone of industrial connectivity. In this regard, mutual exchanges between experts on various standards will provide the foundation for interoperability. JBCE recommended to co-organise awareness raising meetings between EU and Japanese standards setting organisations to inform stakeholders about the progresses of the harmonisation work in different topics.A concrete use case was presented: the Carbon Data Visualization Project, under which digital solutions to visualize carbon emissions across supply chains can be used as a tool to facilitate engagement between companies toward reducing carbon emissions.

Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)

Key messages by JEITA

JEITA focused its intervention on the use of digital technologies and solutions to achieve carbon neutrality across society, with a specific focus on the work conducted as part of the GreenxDigital Consortium and the ongoing public-private dialogue between Japan and EU on digital technologies. A concrete use case was presented: the Carbon Data Visualization Project, under which digital solutions to visualize carbon emissions across supply chains can be used as a tool to facilitate engagement between companies toward reducing carbon emissions.

Key Recommendations by JEITA

1. Create a methodology based on global standards while reflecting sectoral and regional approaches.
2. Identify common data items and formats as well as an API so that we can exchange data among different solutions, platform and networks.
3. Incorporate those fundamental elements into our respective data platforms/networks/solutions as collaborative areas.
4. Enhance technical discussion on how to secure Trust while facilitating innovation and competitiveness.

4. Thematic areas of cooperation

4.1 Artificial Intelligence

In setting the scene, **Juha HEIKKILÄ, Adviser on AI at DG Connect, European Commission** highlighted the exchanges between the Japanese administration and DG Connect on policy developments on each side. One of the points of discussion has been the EU AI Act and developments surrounding its development and possible similarities between regulatory frameworks. Following passage of the EU's AI Act international outreach activities are becoming more important and the **European Commission has invited Japanese companies to join the AI Pact**. In the longer term this could facilitate work towards mutual recognition, and pave the way for future mutual recognition towards conformity assessment by the respective competent bodies in Japan and the EU. DG Connect and the Japanese government aim to further **exchange information on the dynamics of the AI landscape**, such as on generative AI, strengthening bilateral and international cooperation activities, and build on the Hiroshima AI Process.

Emanuela GIRARDI, President, AI, Data and Robotics Association (ADRA) noted that strategic areas of interests for EU-Japan collaboration could be AI and Generative AI; Industrial Robotics with Gen AI; a Trustworthy AI Label Initiative, AI and Robotics Skill Development.

Lars BRUCKNER, Vice-Chair of the Digital Innovation Committee, of JBCE stressed that both the EU and Japan prioritize user trust in AI. JBCE reiterated the importance of global alignment on Generative AI standardsDeeper collaboration between the EU and Japan can strengthen the foundation for safe, secure, and trustworthy AI. It was recommended to reinforce communication and alignment between the EU AI Office and Japan's AI Safety Institute. A balanced approach to nurture responsible Generative AI development was also proposed, with "**EU-Japan Joint Sandbox Exercises**" advanced. These Sandboxes could focus on Generative AI to assess regulatory harmonization, standards alignment, and, Interoperability. JBCE **offered support to engage stakeholders in this process.**

4.2 Semiconductors

Jonas JÜTTING, DG Connect, European Commission, outlined the rationale underpinning the EU Chips Act. International cooperation is crucial with key partners in likeminded countries. The EU is committed to enhance resilience and security in the semiconductor supply chain though joint efforts. The EU-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation on semiconductors is an important instrument in this regard. The next steps of cooperation entail identifying topics for **research cooperation** based on the **Joint Workshop on 25 January 2024**. This identified the following topics: sustainable manufacturing; heterogeneous integration and packaging; cutting-edge process technologies (Towards the 2 nm node). Another important area to consider is the need to **strengthen cooperation for advanced skills and exchange of talent**. The development of a subsidy transparency mechanism is also important.

Roberto ZAFALON, Board Member, European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA), and **Director, Europe Institutional Relationships, for STMicroelectronics,** recalled the size of the semiconductor market and its growth. He flagged the long-standing cooperation between ESIA and JEITA/J-SIA within the framework of the World Semiconductors Council (WSC). ESIA stressed the importance of partnering among different regions.. Alignment of policies and collaboration will be key to enhancing the resilience of the semiconductor ecosystem. ESIA voiced support for the **EU-Japan Memorandum of Understanding on Semiconductors**. ESIA highlighted the need to promote **joint R&D programmes** and **public-private partnerships**. In areas where Europe needs to build new competences. International collaboration with trusted partners such as Japan should be encouraged, for example on alternatives to fluorinated chemicals, such as PFAS. More in-depth cooperation to promote advanced skills and skills-building initiatives are required, and should involve industry.

Meishoku MASAHARA, General Manager of R&D Department, Leading Edge Semiconductor Technology Centre (LSTC) focused on a concrete cooperation activities between the EU and Japan. The Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) signed on December 6, 2022 between IMEC and Rapidus was outlined, establishing long-term and sustainable collaboration. Rapidus has joined the Core Partner Program of IMEC. An overview of the national project by the LSTC with IMEC and CEA-Leti was presented., It was suggested that identifying collaboration areas beyond the early-stage R&D can create joint collaborative advantages.

4.3 Quantum Research and Innovation

Oscar DIEZ, DG Connect, European Commission, recalled that with specific reference to Quantum Technologies the EU-Japan Digital Partnership aims to: *[…] explore modalities of reciprocal access for researchers to their respective supercomputing and quantum computing infrastructures […]* and *[…] exchange information regarding optimising HPC applications of common interest for […] hybrid Quantum-HPC*. The starting point include applications related to biomedical, material science, seismic/tsunami and/or weather and climate modelling. As two workshops were organised in 2023 to explore areas of common interest and practical cooperation, both the EU and Japan are investing heavily into both classical and quantum computing. A sustainable collaboration framework between the two communities, focusing on all parts of the ecosystem (HPC/QC infrastructure providers, research and different activities (e.g. training, knowledge exchange, joint workshops) was discussed. A follow-up workshop is being planned for May 2024 to deep-dive into hybrid quantum-HPC software stacks, and with specific focus on Architecture; Algorithms and Applications, use-cases, and priorities.

Thierry BOTTER, Executive Director of the Quantum Industry Consortium (QuIC), stressed that it is essential for industries to create international links and for this reason he commended the International Council of Quantum Industry Associations (ICQIA), which includes Q-Star from Japan. He further outlined the opportunities that can be gained from enhancing EU-Japan cooperation and in particular:

- Support to bi- and multi-lateral collaboration between quantum industry groups, identifying commonalities in standards, IPR, trade and other areas;
- Sponsor networking between quantum companies from EU and Japan; enhance the visibility of Quantum research and innovation; as well as education and training of professionals for the quantum industry.
- Build a strong Quantum – HPC Infrastructure, and ensure reciprocity

Finally, the Q-Expo will take place on 11-12 June in Amsterdam, where a Japanese delegation is expected to participate. This could provide an opportunity for further exchanges.

Shunsuke OKADA, Chair, Executive Committee, Quantum STrategic industry Alliance for Revolution (Q-STAR) outlined the need to develop businesses based on quantum technology. Importance should be given to supply chain development, market opening, personnel exchange while key areas of cooperation include strengthening the quantum ecosystem at the international level and the development of international standards. Japan has proposed collaboration which is currently under discussion at the next joint workshop, planned for May 2024. Q-STAR aims to develop collaboration with the EU on testbeds for quantum software and the creation of use-cases ; Quantum and Classical Hybrid testbeds to improve environments and operations on both sides.

Other areas of possible collaboration could include:

- Mutual visits and strengthening of collaboration among Quantum-related vendors and suppliers, industrial organisations and institutions (such as G-QuAT) in order to prepare for possible future joint business development,
- The use of Ising machine testbeds built in Japan, and implement on-premises Japanese Ising machines in the EU, and build a testbed unique to the EU.
- The use of open source software to identify best practices for use-cases/algorithms; and define development, operational frameworks, and system quality.
- Finally, collaboration on standardisation and the participation of EU researchers to the QC symposium hosted by AIST.

4.4 Cybersecurity

Joanna SWIATKOWSKA, Deputy Secretary General, European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), suggested that threat Intelligence sharing could be a potential collaboration area between the EU and Japan. This could focus on critical infrastructure and working on standardisation and

interoperability (e.g establishing scalable data exchanges based on commonly agreed taxonomies and international standards) as well as through private-public engagement. With regard to supply chain cybersecurity, there is a need to better understand dependencies and introduce a full suite of security measures (e.g. SBOM, continuous risk assessment) as well as ensure access to key components (e.g. chips, raw materials) and develop a joint strategy for diverse and secure alternatives. To develop harmonized cybersecurity standards and regulations it is important to establish a shared approach and harmonise cybersecurity regulations and standards anchored in the existing international standards. Finally, for operational technology there is a need for harmonised certification, incident reporting, assessment methodologies, or vulnerability disclosures.

Tomomi MAEDA, Deputy Director, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), presented the Policy Draft for the Internet of Things (IoT) Labeling Scheme. In particular, the presentation elaborated on the proposal to strengthen partnership among experts on standardization for EU CRA and the IoT Labeling Scheme by METI, which aims to respond to the call made by the BRT on the EU and Japanese Authorities to pursue international harmonisation in the field of cybersecurity, through the alignment between EU cybersecurity certification schemes and Japan's cybersecurity framework and international standards on certification and labelling of IoT devices and services. Japan: also offered to contribute expertise from IPA Technical Advisory Committee to CEN/CENELEC relevant committees.

Motohiko SATO, Manager, Global Public Policy Department, Japan Association for New Economy (JANE), expressed concerns about the proposed EU Cloud Cybersecurity Certification Scheme (EUCS) published in December 2020. Although this is a voluntary standard being developed by ENISA under the Cybersecurity Act, combined with the implementation of coming EU legislation, it will be mandatory for telecom and Internet service providers. In 2022 the EUCS draft introduced sovereignty requirements, which may exclude non-EU providers and limit eligibility for certification to only cloud providers headquartered in the EU ;a de facto market access barrier. The EUCS may also affect the offering of new and emerging technologies like cloud-based virtualized mobile networks to mobile operators in the EU. To overcome such challenges, the need to reinforce cooperation in Cybersecurity Standard Setting, involving experts and industries from EU and Japan was recommended.

4.5 Submarine Cables

Yoshikazu OKAMOTO, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan noted the increasing importance of Submarine Cables for cross border data flows. Submarine cables are infrastructures developed by the private sector so it is necessary to ensure the business feasibility, and at the same time safety is important from the perspective of economic security. The EU and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for secure, resilient and sustainable global connectivity. A roundtable on Secure International Connectivity was also organized. It's important to undertake initiatives for the installation, operations and maintenance of submarine cables by reliable entities as well as deepening international discussion. It was finally confirmed the commitment to work closely with the business community, to build safe and resilient networks under the EU Japan Digital Partnership.

Valter NORDH, CEO of NORDUnet outlined the vision for a resilient submarine cable system across the Arctic region towards Asia. Different route options are being explored and this is ever more important given that at present 90% of the direct Asia-Europe digital traffic travels through the Suez canal, where disruptions and security issues are undermining a safe and secure connectivity. It is important to engage with research communities on using sensing data for research and environmental monitoring. Enhancing resilience and exploring different pathways between Europe and Japan is required and strengthened cooperation between the EU, Japan and other like-minded countries to ensure Arctic Connectivity was recommended.

Masamichi AKAZAWA, Director, Head of Sales and Marketing Group, Submarine Network Div, NEC Corporation, recalled the Joint Statement of the G7 Industry, Technology and Digital Ministerial Meeting under the Italian Presidency in March 2024, where Connectivity, Maintenance and Repair were recognised as important aspects in realising secure and resilient submarine cables. Industry players are

closely monitoring whether arctic routes are feasible. For the realisation of such initiatives, in general, government support and funding will be crucial.

4.6 Digital Identity

Miki MIZUNO, Section Chief, Digital Agency, Government of Japan, underlined the importance personal identity. A crucial aspect to address is the need for Interoperability of Digital Identity for allowing people, goods, capital, data and services to move across borders freely; there is a need for standardized technologies. The EU-Japan workshop on the Interoperability of Digital Identities on 24th January 2024 to develop customizable solutions that would lead to large scale applications. Further discussions will take place at the forthcoming 2nd EU-Japan Digital Partnership Council Meeting in Brussels on 30th April 2024.

Laurent LOUP, Senior Product Manager, SICPA, and member of the EU Digital Wallet Consortium (EWC) provided an overview of the European Commission EUDI wallet, digital ID and personal digital wallet. There are four large scale pilot projects now underway for developing and testing different areas. An important aspect of the EU Digital Identity Wallet is that it is based on an architecture that will be made publicly available and that there will be different versions of a Wallet prototype that can be freely reusable by any interested party. In the context of the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, EWC would like to see further cooperation with Japanese organisations for testing cross-border use cases, and identify commonalities on interoperability.

Naohiro FUJIE, Researcher, Keio University presented work on university credentials in Japan. A number of current challenges exist. The main challenge is the need to standardize diverse credentials and guarantee the right level of assurance between universities. There is scope for EU-Japan cooperation in this area which would then help develop the assurance and credential system in Japan.

6. Wrap Up Session

In the wrap up and conclusion session, Koichiro NAKAMICHI, Counsellor of the Digital Agency of Japan, outlined the importance of cooperation on all fields discussed in the workshop. In particular, on the topic of Digital Identity, the values of educational credentials, use-cases and interoperability were highlighted.

Annex i. Agenda

09:00-09:05 CEST / 16:00-16:05 JST – Welcome by the organisers

Peter FATELNIG**,** Minister-Counsellor, Digital Economy Policy, **Delegation of the European Union to Japan**

09:05-09:20 CEST / 16:05-16:20 JST - Opening Remarks: Status of the Digital Partnership

Toshiyuki ZAMMA, Director General, **Digital Agency**, Government of Japan

Tomohiro USHIYAMA, Deputy Director-General for IT Strategy, **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)**, Government of Japan

Yasuo TAWARA, Director-General of the Global Strategy Bureau, **Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)**, Government of Japan

Thibaut KLEINER, Director, Policy Strategy and Outreach, **DG Connect**, European Commission

09:20-09:40 CEST / 16:20-16:40 JST – The EU-Japan Digital Partnership: Stakeholders' View

Joël GUSCHKER, Senior Manager for International Affairs and Trade Policy, **DIGITALEUROPE**

Fabio CRISAFULLI, Director, Alliances and Netvibes, Dassault Systèmes, **EU-Japan Business Round Table (BRT)**

Marco CANTON, Chair of Digital Innovation Committee, **Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)**

Akiko HARADA, Deputy General Manager, Green Innovation Department, **Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)**

09:40-10:00 CEST / 16:40-17:00 JST – Artificial Intelligence

Setting the scene: Juha HEIKKILÄ, **DG Connect**, European Commission

Emanuela GIRARDI, President, AI, **Data and Robotics Association (ADRA)**

Lars BRUCKNER, Vice-chair of Digital Innovation Committee, **Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)**

Q&A

10:00-10:20 CEST / 17:00-17:20 JST – Semiconductors

Setting the scene: Jonas JÜTTING, **DG Connect**, European Commission

Roberto Zafalon, Board Member, **European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA)**, Director, Europe Institutional Relationships, **STMicroelectronics**

Meishoku MASAHARA, General Manager of R&D Department, **Leading Edge Semiconductor Technology Centre (LSTC)**

Q&A

10:20-10:40 CEST / 17:20-17:40 JST – Quantum Research and Innovation

Setting the scene: Oscar DIEZ, **DG Connect**, European Commission

Thierry BOTTER, Executive Director of the **Quantum Industry Consortium (QuIC)**

Shunsuke OKADA, Chair, Executive Committee, **Quantum STrategic industry Alliance for Revolution (Q-STAR)**

Q&A

10:40-11:00 CEST / 17:40-18:00 JST – Cybersecurity

Setting the scene: Tomomi MAEDA, Deputy Director, **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)**, Government of Japan

Joanna SWIATKOWSKA, Deputy Secretary General, **European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO)**

Motohiko SATO, Manager, Global Public Policy Department, **Japan Association for New Economy (JANE)**

Q&A

11:00-11:20 CEST / 18:00-18:20 JST -Submarine Cables

Setting the scene: Yoshikazu OKAMOTO, Deputy Director-General, **Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)**, Government of Japan

Valter NORDH, CEO, **NORDUnet**

Masamichi AKAZAWA, Director, Head of Sales and Marketing Group, Submarine Cables Division, **NEC Corporation**

Q&A

11:20-11:40 CEST / 18:20-18:40 JST – Digital Identity

Setting the scene: Miki MIZUNO, Section Chief, **Digital Agency**, Government of Japan

Laurent LOUP, Senior Product Manager, SICPA, **EU Digital Wallet Consortium** (EWC)

Naohiro FUJIE, Researcher, **Keio University**

Q&A

11:40-12:00 CEST / 18:40-19:00 JST – Wrap-up and Conclusions

Koichiro NAKAMICHI, Counsellor, **Digital Agency**, Government of Japan

Peter FATELNIG**,** Minister-Counsellor, Digital Economy Policy, **Delegation of the European Union to Japan**