

ABSTRACT:

Lecture: Tuesday, 24 August 2010, 16.00-18.00

Lecture Title:

“The EU, Japan and joint co-operation in global governance: A bright future for two forgotten forces?”

By: Hartmut Mayer, Visiting Professor at Hitotsubashi University

The lecture aims to analyse the political and strategic co-operation between the European Union and Japan since the intensification of relations after the 2001 Joint-Declaration on EU-Japan Co-operation. The renewal of these relations is imminent with the 2011 review of the EU-Japan partnership. Questions addressed in the lecture will include:

*Will Japan and the EU become forgotten forces in an emerging global order or will they be vital players in filling some of the gaps that the somewhat disappointing US leadership might have left?

*Will the EU and Japan reaffirm and strengthen bilateral ties? Or might they decide to walk in separate directions in world affairs, each trying to contribute to their regions and to global governance independently?

* Under which conditions will they shape global discourses, either jointly or separately? Will they work in a stable tandem or co-operate with very different and shifting partners?

The lecture will also place the EU-Japan relationship into the context of changing global order. It will look at the new Europe after the Lisbon Treaty and the new Japan after the recent changes in government. A renewed reflection about the overlooked and undervalued partnership between Europe and Japan seems timely. Global order in the 21st century, possibly best described as “one world of many worlds”, will need to be structured in a different way. To address the question of EU-Japan Co-operation within a changing global order three main questions need to be answered:

1. What global order?
2. What Europe?
3. What Japan?

The lecture will conclude by providing a normative framework which might help us to assess what global responsibilities and which policy areas should Europe and Japan should jointly shoulder and what contribution they can make to improved global governance.