

## INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN PRAGUE

The rising economic and political relevance of East Asia and its importance for Europe contribute to the reshaping of the multipolar global order. The Visegrad 4 states are significantly integrated within the EU economic, political and security institutional frameworks, but still they seek to extend their trade and investment agenda further to non-EU territorial areas in order to sustain their economic and societal development. Besides the existing EU-PRC strategic partnership, Japan is the one highly relevant strategic Asian partner that represents a more compliant position for the EU and the V4 in terms of support for the global liberal order and the liberal international trade system. Japan as the leading Asian investor in the V4 continues to assume the role of the top Asian technology provider and partner in science and academia.

The seminar aims to review and assess the already existing knowledge of the common interests and develop further the scholarly debate on the mutual importance of the V4 and Japan in the global and European context. The suggested key topic of the seminar is global challenges in the field of economy and geopolitics in connection with developing strategic ties between the EU and Japan (including the ties between the V4 and Japan), particularly with the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The related themes also include the 100th anniversary of the establishing of the Czechoslovak-Japan official relations, Japan's global balancing of the rising China, and the Japanese strategy for the V4 in terms of investments, high-tech research and cooperation, and support for multilateralism and the international liberal order in international organizations.

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CAROLINUM, CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
OVOCNÝ TRH 5, PRAGUE 1

10. 03. 2020  
⌚ 9:00

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➤-INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS PRAGUE

# EUROPEAN UNION, VISEGRAD 4 AND JAPAN: TRADITION AND PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION

CAROLINUM, CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
OVOCNÝ TRH 5, PRAGUE 1

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⌚ 9:00

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## PROGRAMME

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➤-INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS PRAGUE

10. 3. 2020  
TUESDAY

EUROPEAN UNION, VISEGRAD 4 AND JAPAN:  
TRADITION AND PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION

🕒 9:00 WELCOMING AND REGISTRATION

🕒 9:30 OPENING REMARKS

Speakers

**Ondřej Ditrych**

(Director of the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic)

**Kaoru Shimazaki**

(Ambassador of Japan to the Czech Republic)

**Rudolf Fürst**

(Head of the Centre for EU-Asia Relations,  
the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic)

🕒 10:00 – 12:00 PANEL I: EU-JAPAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA) AND EU-JAPAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA) AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING EU-JAPAN TIES.

Chair

**Rudolf Fürst**

(Head of the Centre for EU-Asia Relations, the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic)

Speakers

**Yukari Akeda**

(Lecturer, Dokkyo University, Japan)

— *Re-crafting EU-Japan Cooperation:*

*Expectations and Challenges under the EPA and SPA*

**Hiroyuki Akita**

(Commentator and Journalist, Nikkei - Asian Review, Japan)

— *EU-Japan EPA, and EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement*

**Takashi Hosoda**

(Associate Researcher, Charles University Prague)

— *EU-Japan Security Cooperation*

**David Hutt** (Columnist, The Diplomat, Asia Times)

— *EU-Japanese Relations Amid a New Cold War Between the US and China*

10. 3. 2020  
TUESDAY

🕒 12:00 – 13:00 BUFFET LUNCH

🕒 13:00 – 15:00 PANEL II: VISEGRAD 4 AND JAPAN: PERSPECTIVES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Chair

**Jan Sýkora**

(Associate Professor,  
Institute of Asian Studies,  
Charles University in  
Prague, Czech Republic)

Speakers

**Michal Kolmaš**

(Assistant Professor, Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic)

— *The Challenges in Japan-V4 Cooperation*

**Kaoru Natsuda**

(Professor, College of International Management, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), Japan; Visiting Professor, Budapest Business School, Hungary)

— *Japanese FDI and Management Transfer to Czechia*

**Marcin Socha**

(Senior Research Fellow, Center for Asian Affairs at the University of Lodz, Poland)

— *Japan and V4 states: Poland and Japan - Expanding Cooperation in the Energy Sector.*

**Robert Vancel**

(Research Fellow, Central European Institute of Asian Studies, Slovakia)

*Japan-Slovak Relations in the Context of EU-Japan Connectivity*

🕒 15:00 – 15:30 COFFEE BREAK

🕒 15:30 – 16:30 FINAL REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

Speakers

**Jan Sýkora**

(Associate Professor, Institute of Asian Studies,  
Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic)

**Rudolf Fürst**

(Head of the Centre for EU-Asia Relations,  
the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic)

**Yukari Akeda**

(Lecturer, Dokkyo University, Japan)

🕒 16:30 – 17:30 GLASS OF WINE