



JAPAN-AUSTRIA
1869-2019

EUROPEAN JAPAN
EXPERTS ASSOCIATION [EJEA] e.V.
www.ejea.eu

GRAZ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY [TUGraz]
www.tugraz.at

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ [UniGraz]
www.uni-graz.at

and

INSTITUTE FOR
SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY [ISDP]
<http://isdpeu.eu>

jointly organize a conference on

**Human centered digitalization:
How to develop next generations of humans and robots for a
secure, harmonic and prosperous future of Europe and Japan**

on September 20th and 21st, 2019 in Austria

Background

Currently Japan enjoys a great deal of attention in Austria and Europe: In 2019 Austria and Japan commemorate the establishment of diplomatic relations 150 years ago. Already last year Europe and Japan agreed on a strategic partnership, that includes a free trade agreement and in this sense sends a clear signal against protectionism.

Against this background, the organizers of this conference address the current hype on digitalization, that is reflected beyond others by numerous conferences, symposia, and workshops. However, the events primarily focus in a fragmented way e.g. on economy and commerce, or on technology and industry, or marketing and sales, or media and communication, or leadership and governance, or security and forensics, or finance and banking, or data center and cloud infrastructure - or on even more specific aspects of the digital transformation. At a first glance, it seems that any interest and need in the topic of digitalization is already served by those events. Thus, the question arises, if there is any need for yet another conference? One answer often mentioned and explaining the situation is that we are currently at the beginning of a dynamic and rapid transformation which has to be continuously accompanied by those events reflecting the different processes and progresses as well as discussing the digital risks and digital chances.

However, this standpoint touches only the surface of the discussion, because it does not take into account the enormous and inadequate fragmentation of the reflections at one hand and the complexity and interconnectedness of the processes at the other hand. For instance, both the European and the Japanese societies need to solve the complex problem not to leave behind the elderly in the process of digitalization,

which involves as well as economical, educational, ethical, technical, privacy, legal, medical, humanistic aspects. Another example of high complexity with a global relevance including both the European and Japanese societies is climate change and the future role of digitalization e.g. by technological innovations in areas such as industrial production, heating systems and transport solutions. Technological advances have been an unintended but a major cause for the partial destruction of the global environment. But technology will also be necessary in finding ways to battle this destruction. However, without integrating the involved relevant humanistic and ethic aspects – such as digital maturity, digital personality, digital competence - any attempt of technical solution is meaningless!

Thus, in face of the complexity and interconnectedness of the processes and structures in digital transformation,

- (a) holistic, general, and multi-level views, taking into account
- (b) the complexity and interconnectedness of the fields, structures and processes, and
- (c) the global and cross-cultural contexts, with an explicit focus
- (d) on human wellbeing and social peace

are strongly required!

In a similar framing, the international conference “Integration and Disintegration in the Japanese Vision of Society 5.0: A Model for an Open Society in Europe?”, was jointly organized by EJE and ISDP on April 13th and 14th, 2018 in Sweden.

Aim of the conference

The aim of the conference is to identify ways of safeguarding and maintaining human integrity and values in the midst of a technological development where they become less and less necessary for the technologies to work. While not denying the benefits of technological advancements the organizers of this conference would also like to discuss how to develop the next generations of humans and robots for a secure and prosperous future, not least for Europe and Japan.

To achieve this aim, the priorities of the conference focus on:

1. to overcome the current fragmented situation around the digitalization discourse.
2. to provide a forum for educational purposes.
3. to involve especially young academics for implementing the above-mentioned educational measures in Japan as well as in Europe.

Thus, the conference includes

- speakers who are generalists and those who are specialists from Europe and Japan
- topics with a cross-disciplinary focus
- cross-cultural and global content
- experts and novices from different generations with the emphasis of education and networking
- especially prioritizing the key aspects of human wellbeing and social peace.

The final goal of the conference is to develop integrated views and common European-Japanese recommendations which have the potential to avoid digital risks like division of society, socially incompatible developments, disintegration, leaving behind the elderly, social conflicts etc. and to support digital chances to reach aims like equality and fairness of participation, balance of chances and opportunities, cooperation instead of competition, human wellbeing, social peace and to develop the societal and digital transformation in a peaceful spirit.

Outline of the conference

The conference will consist of keynote speeches, lectures, posters, open discussions and focused workshops. Presenters will come from various fields, representing the industry, technological research institutions and specialists in humanities. Political decision makers will also be invited to make statements and to discuss common issues in workshops. As a forum for young researchers, a poster session will be organized. These young academics are suitable to act as mediators and multipliers for educating future generations.

Target group

Individual experts, decision makers and opinion leaders from related organizations, companies, universities, and research institutes from Austria, Europe as well as from Japan.

Funding

The following organizations have been / will be e.g. approached:

- Kansai Osaka 21st Century Association
- Styrian Government

- Graz City Government
 - Federal Ministry Republic of Austria: Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs
 - Federal Ministry Republic of Austria: Transport, Innovation and Technology
- Sponsors are welcome!

Venue:

Graz University of Technology, Austria

Date: 2019 September 20/21

1 and a half days conference: Friday morning until Saturday ca. 1pm

For further information please contact:

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The European Japan Experts Association (EJEA)

On November 4, 1995 Japan experts from 11 European countries and from the European Commission established an alumni organization for the participants of a Japan-fellowship program funded by Japanese companies – the European Japan Experts Association e.V. (EJEA).

After more than 20 years of existence, the Association is looking for new opportunities.

Conceived as an interdisciplinary association with a European profile and open to experts from academia, government and industry EJEA is a sustainable interdisciplinary network and develops initiatives on a European level for promoting cooperation, exchange, synergy and transfer of knowledge between Europe and Japan.

EJEA aims:

- to be an “umbrella” for serving existing organizations
- to bundle European “voices” from a broad range of disciplines
- to be a “platform” for discussions about Japan-Europe related topics

In the process of strengthening and expanding EJEA’s network between Japan and Europe, the Association establishes an annual conference series. The conference in the vicinity of Stockholm on April 13th and 14th 2018 with the title „Integration and Disintegration in the Japanese Vision of Society 5.0: A Model for an Open Society in Europe?“ was the first of this conference series.

Website: www.ejea.eu



Graz University of Technology (TUGraz)

TU Graz has five internationally-recognised scientific Fields of Expertise. It maintains a balanced relationship between basic, scientific and applied research. TU Graz offers a diverse array of engineering, scientific and design programmes. It places a focus on research-based, mainly English-language master's and PhD programmes that are based on bachelors programmes that involve basic research. TU Graz provides its students with high-level training, promotes critical and creative thinking and responsible

conduct and infuses students with enthusiasm for science and their careers. TU Graz highly values its employees and supports their personal development. As an innovative scientific and training partner, TU Graz contributes significantly to the attractiveness and development of Styria.

The principles of Graz University of Technology go to form the basis and guidelines which find special consideration in our daily work and association with each other. We are an achievement-oriented community of researchers, teachers, students, staff and alumni who work in an open and innovation-oriented atmosphere of intellectual freedom and responsibility. Our research and teaching results are a valuable commodity which we create and make use of as efficiently as possible – both economically and scientifically. We are committed to achievement and its evaluation in an inspiring environment full of creativity with equal opportunities for all. Our organisation in the field of research and teaching is as decentralised as possible, and in the field of services and central administration as centralised as is necessary. We create an atmosphere of belongingness, partnership and solidarity with respect to Graz University of Technology. We actively communicate with the public about our achievements. We are aware of ourselves as a role model and feel committed to it.

Website: www.tugraz.at



University of Graz (UniGraz)

As a comprehensive university, the University of Graz regards itself as an international institution for education and research committed to research and teaching for the benefit of society. It is our policy to maintain freedom in research and teaching, which permanently commits us to social, political and technological developments. Increasing flexibilisation and globalisation are the essential frame conditions.

Research

Basic and applied research belong to our excellences, based on the foundations of scientific and ethical integrity. We foster topical and methodological variety within an international cooperation network. We build our profile by determining research focuses under the consideration of socially relevant research questions. Innovative interdisciplinary research and cooperation are amongst the subjects especially encouraged.

We involve our students in research in the context of research-based teaching. We cooperate with excellent European and non-European universities and participate in important networks. We actively provide our knowledge and the results generated through research to society.

Young Scientists

We regard ourselves as being a both nationally and internationally sought-after partner for young scientists. Our doctoral students and postdocs work in a research group network and acquire thorough preparation for successful careers as scientists in a global context. We support young scientists by providing special training and mobility programmes as well as networking and cooperation with other scientific institutions and businesses.

Website: www.uni-graz.at



The Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP)

The Institute for Security and Development Policy is a Stockholm-based non-profit and non-partisan research and policy organization, supported by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ISDP is dedicated to expanding understanding of international affairs, focusing on the inter-relationship between security, conflict, and development. The Institute strongly believes in ethnic diversity, gender equality, and religious and political freedom and firmly stands for it in all aspects of its work.

ISDP's work aims at providing strategic analysis and practical solutions to assist decision-makers in both public and private sectors to achieve their goals.

The Stockholm Japan Center of ISDP aims at becoming a leading forum for research and discussions on the political, social and cultural aspects of Japan and its global role.

Website: www.isdp.eu

