

EU-Japan Digital Partnership Webinar  
~ Connecting the EU, Japan and the World  
by GAIA-X, CATENA-X and Japan's Data Strategy ~

Tuesday, March 12 17:00-19:00 Tokyo (9:00~11:00 Brussels)

### Opening remarks

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

The European data initiative, which aims to ensure the reliable and free flow of data, began a decade ago, but currently faces many challenges. In addition to technology, many industries are also hindered by fears of data leaks and hesitance to move forward. However, data sharing has already begun in the automotive field and other fields. It is not impossible to use data in a secure, private, free and automated manner. I hope that our wonderful panelists will deepen our understanding of this point.

- Moderator Koichi AKAISHI, Former Vice Minister, Digital Agency

Similar to Europe, Japan has been considering a comprehensive strategy for data usage for the past 10 years. A digital partnership was concluded between Japan and Europe in 2022, although there are difficult issues, the distance between Japan and Europe in this field is very close. Just last month, in February, an open forum between Japan and Europe was held in Paris. We are striving for mutual understanding. This time, the panelists will talk about the overall digital partnership, issues with data linkage, collaboration with GAIA-X, initiatives in the manufacturing field, and the latest developments in Japan-Europe data linkage.

### Presentations

- Takuya YAMAZAKI, Chief Director, Digital Agency

Introducing the current situation in Japan and the government's actions. Japan published a comprehensive data strategy in June 2021. This was then translated into a concrete action plan in December 2023. This was first announced with the intention of establishing a foundation for data collaboration in the public sector. Regarding private sector data, the government is supporting the development of Ouranos and DATA-EX. Regarding international cooperation, we are proposing to the OECD the creation of an organization to specifically realize DFFT. Regarding cooperation between Japan and the EU, a digital partnership was concluded in May 2022. This is a comprehensive agreement in the digital field, including everything from semiconductors to AI to 5G. The Green Alliance was signed in 2021, and the two are twins. The first ministerial meeting between the two countries will



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be held in July 2023, and an MOU will be concluded regarding semiconductors and submarine cables. In addition, regarding data, an agreement was reached to promote DFFT and recognize the interoperability of mutual data systems. The next meeting is scheduled for spring 2024. Cooperation with Europe is geopolitically important, and green and digital partnerships have great significance. .

- Ichiro AOYAGI, SVP / Co-Head of Solution Service Strategic Unit, Fujitsu & Board Member, Japan Data Management Consortium (JDMC)

Il talk about the issues and expectations for data linkage. Fujitsu prioritizes sustainability Along with this, we have established seven areas of focus under the framework of UVANCE in order to solve social issues. GX is one of those themes. There are two important points regarding this matter. One is standardization. Clear rules must be set. The second is building a system for data utilization. For this reason, for example, the Green Digital Consortium aims to visualize the entire supply chain. There are two issues. The first issue is data security. The second point is ensuring data interoperability. To address these issues and standardize them, we are participating in various industry organizations both domestically and internationally, and conducting repeated demonstration experiments. Regarding cooperation between Japan and the EU, we are looking forward to the conclusion of a digital partnership. Proceeding under the same rules has the meaning of building a virtual economic zone. At the same time, we recognize the importance of establishing a legal framework. Japan's position is that the United States and China are more likely to standardize through the power of numbers. This does not guarantee freedom. On the other hand, Europe may be able to compete with an ecosystem-based data strategy. For refence, currently, 270 companies are participating in JDMC, and they are working towards practical data management.

- Takeo KODERA, Strategic Program Lead, Head of Automotive Competency Center, SAP Japan Co., Ltd.

I'm engaged in CATENA-X activities in Japan. CATENA-X was launched from German automotive industry in 2021 to ensure data security and flow throughout the supply chain. The three issues at the time were decarbonization of the entire value chain, strengthening the supply chain, and visualization of the entire engineering chain. It was broken this down into 10 use cases and began operation. In particular, the visualization of CO2 is already at a usable level. CATENA-X consists of 28 core companies and 170 association companies. In addition to this, last year, an internal organization called COFINITY-X was created to monitor development and operations. Looking at specific use cases, companies such as Siemens already provide apps for the CO2 visualization use case, and multiple apps are also provided for the traceability and quality cases. Regarding cooperation between Japan and Europe, there are differences in terms of concentration and decentralization, freedom and control, and infrastructure and applications. The starting point is to mutually

understand the differences. Taking batteries as an example, we believe that the data system that Japan is currently aiming for is far more sophisticated than CATENA-X. This is a difference in consciousness that the industry is trying to create through all Japan, and I think it is important to first understand this difference. In order to deepen cooperation amidst the differences between Japan and Europe, it would be necessary to design a system that includes authority and driving force rather than a one-on-one relationship. I think collaboration between the public and private sectors of Japan and Europe, in other words, the four sectors, is essential.

- Kazuo NAKASHIMA, Director for Promoting IoT, Robot Revolution & Industrial IoT Initiative (RRI)

RRI was established in 2015 as a private organization supporting the government's new robot strategy. It also includes IoT. For the moment, over 400 companies and organizations are participating as members. It also works with GAIA-X and Germany. RRI originally had strong ties with Germany, and its current partner has been the platform Industry 4.0 since 2016. For data linkage, it has been considered from a very early stage. By the way, data space isn't a place where data is stored, but in a decentralized system, the place where data is exchanged (community). There are many data spaces in Europe (full of X). To explain the hierarchy from the bottom, there is a group that determines the rules and foundation, and above that, there is a utilization space such as CATENA-X, and on top of that there is an application for providing data. The system allows anyone to participate as long as they follow the rules. On the other hand, RRI's data space action group consists of four groups. 1) Sharing recognition, 2) Examining use cases, 3) Responding to technological innovation, 4) Considering sending messages to the outside. In the example use case, at first, they will consider the motivations of companies participating in the data space, then will consider how to dispel their concerns, and after will consider how they will collaborate. International collaboration regarding data space in the manufacturing industry has begun and we aim to complete Manufacturing -X.

- Ulrich AHLE, Chief Executive Officer of GAIA-X

GAIA X was founded four years ago and currently has 320 members. The vision is to build a decentralized ecosystem. Looking at the past history, one-to-one data distribution started 40 years ago. Twenty years ago, this expanded to few to few. GDPR is also included in this category. Currently, we are moving towards distribution between data spaces (many to many). This is not data accumulation, but collaboration. The data remains saved in its original location. Since this is accessible to everyone, standardization is necessary. Our mission is to build standardization. As for the overall strategy, the problems and challenges of end users are the starting point. Next is consideration of the technology's market responsiveness, international strategy, and the growth and expansion of the ecosystem. GAIA-X has a data level certification system called Clearing House, which ensures data

standardization and safety. This is different system from Japan, and efforts are needed to ensure interoperability. Next, GAIA-X currently has two implementation examples, in the agricultural and automobile fields. And In total, nearly 20 projects are about to get underway. Regarding collaboration with other organizations, two years ago we formed an alliance with BDVA, FIWARE and IDSA (Data Spaces Business Alliance = DSBA). The aim is to achieve common objectives with one architecture in Europe. Over 100 hubs are participating. Collaboration is also progressing internationally. This includes Japan's DATA-EX. Data spaces provide business processes to end users, but as the automotive example shows, this requires international cooperation. We have high hopes for the establishment of the International Data Society Alignment Task Force, which was agreed upon at the International Open Forum on Data Society (IOFD) held in Paris in February. As additional information, many Japanese companies we met at the IOFD were unaware of the existence of the Japan-EU Digital Partnership. I would like you to spread the word widely.

### **Q&A and Discussion**

After each presentation, the discussion progressed with questions from the moderator, Akaishi. Some of them are as follows.

Q1: Both Japan and Europe are aiming for open frameworks, and the key point is how to connect them, and in doing so, we recognized that it is important to firmly establish Identity, Trust, and Certification. My impression is that Europe has a hierarchical structure, but what about Japan?

A1: Regarding the subject of certification, I think there is no mechanism in Japan to certify companies. For example, if you want to participate in CATENA-X, you will have to use the European system. I think it would be better for Japan to have a system based on mutual authentication.

A2: There has not been a clear discussion on the Japanese side as to why the system is necessary. The starting point is to first try implementing it with a use case and figure out what the problem would be if there was no foundation for trust.

A3: For example, in the automobile field, the public and private sectors of Japan and Europe, in other words, four sectors develop a driving force. Isn't one way to proceed by creating a force?

A4: Even if we consider use cases in the manufacturing industry, there is no question of coming out what to do about authentication issues We are currently sorting things out.

Q2: How did you create a platform in Europe?

A1: It was created with the initiative of end users. Take Airbus, for example, they have a digital platform that they use for repairs and productivity. Since data can be used by anyone, authentication, reliability, and safety are required when using it. Rather than being required, end users need them.

A2: Among the ecosystems around the world, the Japanese and European approaches are very similar. I wonder if it will be also possible to create some kind of blueprint and propose it to North America and China.

Others: See recorded video for details

**Closing remarks**

Finally, Tanabe, Managing Director of the EU-Japan Industrial Cooperation Centre, closed the event by words of hoping that this webinar served as an opportunity to better understand this complex field, and that also hoping to continue further discussions in the future.

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