

Background information Innovation Seminar:

Objectives:

With this innovation seminar, KU Leuven and Waseda University, both key players within their **regional innovation ecosystem**, want to highlight the **importance of industry-academia** collaboration, offering both a **European, Flemish and Japanese perspective into R&I policy** and support mechanisms, as well as giving the audience an **insight into institutional innovation and valorisation policies**. Spanning the entire innovation lifecycle, from early stage research to bringing a product to the market, the seminar also showcases best practices, introducing Flemish and Japanese **spin-offs and start-ups**.

Audience:

Belgian business and academic delegates participating in the mission
Japanese partner institutions
Japanese industry contacts
Students

Programme:

13:45 – 14:00: Doors open and registration

14:00 – 14:15: Opening speech by [HE Jean-Eric Paquet](#),
EU Ambassador to Japan

14:15 – 14:45: Introduction to innovation and valorisation policy at KU Leuven and Waseda University by **Prof. Luc Sels, Rector KU Leuven** and [Prof. Hironori Kasahara](#), Professor at the Faculty of Science and Engineering and former Senior Executive Vice President Waseda University

14:45 – 16:00: Panel discussion: 'from policy to practice'.
Belgian and Japanese panellists discuss best cases and experiences in both countries. Themes discussed will be related to spin-off policy, the role of the innovation ecosystem, industry-academia collaboration, innovation regulation and funding as well as best cases from both countries by introducing spin-offs and start-ups.

Moderator: **Ms Ewa Bulthez**, Director Innovative and International Entrepreneurship, VOKA-Chamber of Commerce, Flemish Brabant

Panellists:

- **Prof. Mikiko Shimaoka**, Research Innovation Center, Waseda University
- **Prof. Bart De Moor**, Department of Electrical Engineering, KU Leuven
- **Prof. Stepan Lomov**, Faculty of Engineering Science and Toray Professor (Toray Chair for Composites) KU Leuven
- **Ms Sabien Vanlangendonck**, Head funded projects KU Leuven R&D
- Waseda student(s) – names TBC

The discussion will be followed by a Q&A session and networking opportunity