

**2017 Embassy of Japan Business Seminar:
Brexit and the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement**
On the occasion of 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
between Japan and Ireland

- ◇ 22nd November 2017, 14:00 – 17:40
- ◇ Venue: InterContinental Dublin

[General Summary]

This seminar was composed of two parts. The first part provided valuable information for Japanese companies in Ireland that may be affected by the issue of Brexit. Speakers were front-line personnel involved directly in Brexit in the government, business or academic sectors.

The second part of the seminar focused on how to derive business opportunities from the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and was intended for both Japanese companies based in Ireland and Irish companies that are interested in doing business with Japan. The main speakers included Irish government officials who led the EPA negotiations, and who accompanied a trade mission to Japan led by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. in November 2017. Other speakers from the private sector explained their business plans ahead of the EPA.

The seminar's participants highlighted the potential of the Japanese economy and market, and reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening economic relations between Japan and Ireland after Brexit.

- ◇ Programme:

Opening Remarks

- Ambassador Mari Miyoshi, Embassy of Japan in Ireland

Part I: Brexit

Speech I

- Mr. Rory Montgomery, Second Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Brexit negotiations between the EU and the UK



Mr Rory Montgomery joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1983. He spent most of the 1990s working on Northern Ireland issues and was a member of the Irish team which negotiated the Good Friday Agreement. He was promoted to Assistant Secretary and Political Director in 2005. From April 2009 until September 2013, Rory Montgomery was Ireland's Permanent Representative to the EU, and then spent a year as Irish Ambassador to France. From August 2014 to October 2016 he was Second Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach, with responsibility for EU affairs, and in October 2016 returned to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Second Secretary General with responsibility for EU issues, including official-level coordination on Brexit.

Speech II

- Ambassador Kazuo Kodama, Mission of Japan to the EU in Brussels:
Brexit: Japan's perspective from Brussels



Ambassador Kodama joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976 before taking up the post of Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in August 2010. Ambassador Kodama was appointed as Permanent Representative of Japan to the OECD in 2013 and as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the European Union in 2016.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Prof Declan M. Downey, School of History, UCD

- Ms. Eileen Sharpe, Head of Growth Markets, IDA Ireland:
The work of the IDA in attracting foreign companies to Ireland
- Mr. John Cronin, Partner, McCann Fitzgerald:
Support services for foreign companies
- Professor Gavin Barrett, UCD Sutherland School of Law:
Future of Common Travel Area (CTA)



Dr. Declan M. Downey is a member of the Spanish Royal Academy and Assistant Professor in Modern European and Japanese Diplomatic History at UCD. He is co-director of the BCL Law with History degree programme, and is an external advisor to the European Commission on Japan - EU relations.



Ms Eileen Sharpe is a member of IDA Ireland's Executive Leadership Team and she has strategic responsibility for all IDA Ireland's activities in Growth Markets, Europe, Emerging Business and New forms of Investment.



Mr John Cronin is a partner, and the former Chairman /Managing Partner, at leading Irish law firm McCann FitzGerald. He is the head of the firm's Brexit Group and is advising a number of overseas financial institutions and companies on their Brexit strategies.



Professor Gavin Barrett is Jean Monnet Professor of European Constitutional and Economic Law and a Professor in UCD Sutherland School of Law.

Part II: The Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

Speech III

- Mr. Philip Kelly, Assistant Secretary, EU Affairs and Trade Policy Division, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation:
Outline of the EPA

Speech IV

- Ms. Tara McCarthy, CEO, Bord Bia:
Results of November trade mission to Japan and the EPA's expected impact on agri-food trade between Japan and Ireland



Mr Philip Kelly is Assistant Secretary at the EU Affairs & Trade Policy Division of the Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation. He leads on co-ordination of Department and Agency responses to Brexit.



Ms Tara McCarthy is CEO of *Bord Bia*, the Irish Food Board. Prior to being appointed as CEO of *Bord Bia* she was CEO of *Bord Iascaigh Mhara*, Ireland's Seafood Development Agency.

The perspective of Irish industry

- Ms. Anne Lanigan, Manager of Brexit Unit and former Japan Office Director, Enterprise Ireland:
The EPA's expected impact on trade between Japan and Ireland
- Mr. Steve Tormey, CEO, Toyota Ireland:
The perspective of the Irish automobile sales industry
- Mr. Charles O'Neill, CEO, Irish Thoroughbred Marketing:
The perspective of the equine industry
- Mr. Conor Galvin, Head of Commercial and Business Development, Dairygold:
The perspective of the dairy industry



Ms Anne Lanigan is the Manager of the Brexit Unit at Enterprise Ireland. She previously held the role of Director of Enterprise Ireland's Office in Tokyo.



Mr Steve Tormey is the CEO of Toyota Ireland. He has responsibility over Toyota's Sales, Marketing and Distribution within Ireland. He has played rugby for both Connacht and Leinster.



Mr Charles O'Neill joined Irish Thoroughbred Marketing in 2014. He has a strong equestrian and racing background, having worked in the industry in Ireland, France and Germany.



Mr Conor Galvin is the Head of Commercial, Innovation & Business Development at Dairygold.

➤ Master of Ceremonies:



Mr Raymond Hegarty is a company director and IP strategist. He is a former Chairperson of the Ireland Japan Association. He spent several years living in Japan as part of a FÁS Overseas Graduate Programme.