

Machikado Town College with the cooperation of EUIJ

EU serial lectures “Japan’s Blueprint Lies in the EU: Expectation for Asian Integration Starting from EU Understandings”

1st session on 28th September: Associate Professor Jonathan Lewis, Hitotsubashi University, "Introduction to "realities of EU""

2nd session on 5th October: Professor Hirotaka Watanabe, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, "Japanese "Admiration" for Europe: Education, Welfare and Employment"

3rd session on 19th October: Professor Eiji Ogawa, Hitotsubashi University, "The day we don't have to exchange currencies in a trip over Asia?: The Birth of Asian Monetary Unit (AMU)"

4th Session on 26th October: Professor Takahiko Tanaka, Hitotsubashi University, "Defense by oneself or with others?: Security of Asian Union"

The Human-Environment Key Station (NPO), as a centre of local activities of students who take a course ‘Town Development’ at Hitotsubashi University, held four-time EU serial lectures as part of the ‘Machikado’ project which aims to connect Kunitachi area with Hitotsubashi. The idea of cooperating with the EUIJ originated in the proposal of Prof Ogawa, who had given a lecture at Machikado Town College in January 2005 and been inspired by heated panel discussions with citizens, that there should be a joint project with the EUIJ. Then in May 2005, as part of Machikado Town College, Prof Yamauchi gave a lecture at the university, entitled ‘The Road to a United Europe’ to 100 citizens and students, followed by these serial lectures.

Each session was almost full with those who were, for instance, eager enough to take all the sessions and businessmen who dashed out of office. Some participants accidentally knew these lectures by newspaper advertisements. There were as many as fifty participants at the first session, a record high figure. To the participants, who sometimes referred to a book at hand while listening and asked strenuous questions, Prof Tanaka showed respect, appreciating their keenness with which to study after work. Dr Neves, dispatched by the European Commission, attended the second session after having made his own lecture at Hitotsubashi and made a speech: ‘he was excited to see Japanese citizens’ high interest in the EU. It was a nice experience to attend this lecture.’ These were very good opportunities for citizens as well, because they were able to familiarise themselves with the EU while staying in Kunitachi. After-session meetings were even held around the lectures by excited attendants. One participant, who listened until midnight in a relaxed atmosphere, pathetically stated he felt as if he had attended a seminar at university.