

## **EUIJ Open Lectures**

### **Professor Mario Telo, The Ideas of a united Europe: past, present, future**

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Professor Mario Telo (President, Institut d'études européennes, Université Libre de Bruxelles) visited the International Christian University on 26 October 2006 and held the open lecture. A large audience from ICU and other universities filled the venue. His lecture generated deeper understandings of the present state and the prospects of the EU on the basis of historical background.

In the lecture titled *The Ideas of a united Europe: past, present, future*, Professor Telo discussed the following: historical background of and ideas on the EU developed even before the set-up of the ECSC; the differences between a United States of Europe and the United States; ideas of a confederation and a federation; the current condition of the European Constitution; and new attempts of regionalism and the EU which embodies new multilateralism in the age of globalisation today. He especially emphasised three points. Firstly, he considered the influence of political thoughts on the European integration. He quoted ideas of Kant, Montesquieu, Hamilton and Hugo, and discussed their impact on the integration of Europe through comparison and analysis of each thought. Secondly, he weighed differences between a confederation and a federation. He suggested that the EU today is more consistent with a Federation of states than a Federal state in the making or a traditional confederation. In addition, he discussed the aspects of both confederationism and federationism of various issues in present Europe, including the European Constitution. Thirdly, he noted the significance of the EU in promoting regional peace and cooperation in an increasingly globalised world. In addition to the importance of strengthening relations with neighbouring countries, he argued that it was important for the EU to play its role and cement its position as a global actor. A case in point is the Kyoto Protocol where the EU played a leading role in cooperation with Japan.