

EUIJ International Conference

Globalisation and the European Integration: Business and Social Dimensions in the History and Today

(13 January 2007, Tsuda College)

The third EUIJ International Conference, entitled *Globalisation and the European Integration: Business and Social Dimensions in the History and Today* was successfully held at Room 5101, the Audio Visual Center of Tsuda College on Saturday 13th January 2007. Conference information and invitations were sent to individual EU embassies, the heads of EUIJ-related groups, universities, and media outlets. We were delighted to secure approximately 200 participants as a result. The breakdown of participants was as follows: twenty invited guests, ninety students, seventy general participants and twenty others. Among the general participants were many researchers who were not members of one of the four EUIJ universities but nevertheless had found information about the conference on the homepage and came along. Other participants included the Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretariat and his wife, the former Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency, and a representative from the Public Relations Department of Toyota Co.

Achievements

The aim of the Conference was to consider the current European Integration process in the historical and contemporary context of globalisation. Using the key words *Flexibility and Cohesion* speakers were asked to consider the problem in both the context of their own research in politics, law, and socio-economic history, and in historical perspective. Eight distinguished speakers and six Japanese commentators gathered to discuss these problems. Of particular interest was the lecture by Professor Yves Mény s, President of the European University Institute, entitled *Globalizing, Enlarging, Deepening: Challenges to the Democratisation of the European Union* , and also the lecture given by Professor Leslie Hannah s, University of Tokyo, entitled *Globalisation and European Enterprises: Flexibility and Cohesion in the Past and Future* . Thanks to the lectures and the following discussions, our knowledge of the problems facing European Integration has been broadened and deepened.

It might be considered overly-ambitious to attempt to discuss the complicated business and social problems in both historical and contemporary perspective in the context of globalisation within such a limited time. Nevertheless, the conference was extremely stimulating and proved to be a great success, as the written proceedings show. Despite the potential difficulties inherent in discussing problems over a number of

varied levels, the efforts and skills of the presenters and the simultaneous interpreting contributed greatly to audience s understanding. This Conference attracted a large number of people, indicating a desire to know more about the EU. The difference in approach of this International Conference from previous ones shows the depth and variety of research being carried out under the auspices of EUIJ Tokyo, which was ultimately able to respond to public thirst for knowledge on this topic.

Perspectives in the future

Firstly, the proceedings of the lectures and comments will be published both in electronic media and print. Whether it will be published through a publisher has not been decided.

Secondly, thanks to the presence of President Mény an agreement was able to be signed that forms the basis of the collaboration between the EUI and EUIJ Tokyo. To further develop academic relations will be quite important, and Tsuda College has a plan to invite a EUI Professor in July 2007.

Thirdly, within this International Conference, new academic approaches using the notion of human networks to study the European Integration in historical context have come to the fore. We hope to further develop contacts with socio-economic history academics in Europe. Some projects might be continued using the title of the Conference, if funding can be secured.