

EUIJ-The University of Air Joint Symposium

EU of the 21st Century: Light and Shadow of EU Enlargement

On 4th August 2007, the EUIJ the University of Air Joint Symposium was held at Hitotsubashi University, Mercury Tower, under the title of The EU of the 21st Century: Light and Shadow of EU Enlargement . This symposium, open to general public as well as EUIJ-Tokyo Consortium university students, was attended by as many as 70 people, and consisted of five lectures and a roundtable convened by some of the lecturers.

The Symposium started with the opening remark of Mr Yamauchi, the Director of the EUIJ followed by the keynote speech of Prof Passarelli, Bocconi University. After outlining the EU Constitutional Treaty, he pointed out that the Reform Treaty, which would replace the Constitutional Treaty had been agreed upon recently by the European Council, will mitigate the democratic deficit which the Union suffers from. In the afternoon, Prof Kashiwakura, the University of Air, citing on-site episodes he obtained as a journalist, emphasised that European integration had been promoted under the initiatives of France and Germany. Prof Ogawa, Hitotsubashi University, argued that while the member states have to abide by strict conditions before adopting the euro, it gives an advantage to the member states on increased investments and so on. Prof Nakanishi, Senshu University, explained that the EU accession conditions are very strict, but for this reason its stability had not been undermined as a result of a series of EU enlargements. As the last lecture, Prof Ueta, International Christian University, talked about EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, in relation to the Eastward enlargement and the Reform Treaty, and pointed out that the EU member states future-oriented spirit was essential in overcoming European history of wars and conquests and promoting European integration. The last session was a roundtable chaired by Prof Yamauchi, Hitotsubashi University, in which some of the lectures discussed the relationship between the EU and Japan.

After each lecture and the roundtable a number of questions were raised by the audience, showing up the significance of the symposium as a whole. This demonstrated that Japanese general public has strong interest in the EU and that the significance of European integration is profoundly understood as an experience of transcending the modern nation-state system.