

## ***Welcome for the participants of the EU-Japan Workshop on CSR***

***By György Széll, the organiser***

I am very glad that so many friends and colleagues have made the long way from Europe to attend this workshop. Although we could not assemble representatives from all Member States of the EU, however, I am happy that six countries are represented, i.e. Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Sweden. We have also – I think – a good mix of experienced and young researchers as well as of academics and practitioners.

My thanks go first to the Institute of Economic Research of Hitotsubashi University, which appointed me since April for one year as professor, and which gives me excellent working conditions and secretarial help. It is represented today by its director, Prof. Dr. Masaashi Kuboniwa.

I would like also to mention the newly founded Consortium EU Institute in Japan, which is hosted at Hitotsubashi University as well, and which gave me generous financial support, so that we could cover some travel grants. Mr. Norio Yamauchi will speak some welcoming words in a couple of minutes.

I have since many years a good working relationship with the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) here in Tokyo, and I welcome its deputy Director General, Dr. René Haak, also as an active participant of this workshop.

Finally I am grateful to the International Seminars of Hitotsubashi University, which takes over some of the costs of the dinner tonight.

We already had a nice welcome dinner yesterday night. And I am sure that the convivial atmosphere we generally enjoy, when I am responsible for an event, will continue. And this wonderful Conference Centre is certainly also a point in it.

Finally, we also did our best to have arranged this wonderful weather for You at the end of November – forgetting rain and snow in Europe and enjoying Your spare time.

So, without any more words I would like to give the floor to Prof. Kuboniwa. Dozo!