

French-Japanese Business Summit 2025: Over 1,000 leaders gather in Tokyo to build the “Japan Dream” – a future of optimism and innovation

Tokyo, November 6, 2025 – Nikkei Hall

The **French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (CCI France Japon)** brought together more than **1,000 French, Japanese, and international leaders, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers** for the **8th edition of the French-Japanese Business Summit 2025**, under the theme **“Japan Dream: Building Optimism in Unpredictable Times.”**

Held at the **Nikkei Hall in Tokyo**, the event highlighted Japan’s ability to combine **tradition and innovation** to shape a future based on **sustainability, cooperation, and humanism**.

At the opening of the summit, **Jérôme Chouchan**, President of CCI France Japon, praised Japan’s determination and its role as a model inspiring ambition, optimism, and meaning in building a future full of opportunities.

Jérémy Forrat-Jaïme, Minister Counsellor at the French Embassy in Japan, then emphasized the growing success of Franco-Japanese cooperation, illustrated by Osaka 2025 and Japan’s participation in VivaTech.

Takako Tsujisaka (METI) highlighted current geopolitical challenges and the need to encourage start-up growth, while **Masakazu Kubota (Keidanren)** stressed the importance of coordination between public and private actors to support progress and innovation.

An opening marked by confidence and partnership

Former Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** opened the summit by stressing the importance of investing in talent, start-ups, and SMEs to build Japan’s future. He reaffirmed the stability of the Franco-Japanese partnership, which he described as “closer than ever,” and reminded that global challenges “can only be solved collectively.”

Shibuya: Laboratory of the city of the future

The first roundtable, *“Shibuya, shaping the cities of tomorrow,”* highlighted Shibuya 2035, a project for an inclusive, sustainable, and connected city.

Shiho Watabe (Shibuya Startups) described Shibuya as a global hub of ideas, symbolizing an urban Japan open to collaboration and creativity.

Yamato: Logistics, innovation, and social responsibility

Yutaka Nagao (Yamato) presented the company’s commitment to carbon neutrality, deploying thousands of electric vehicles and a clear 2030 roadmap. The company combines technological innovation and environmental responsibility to improve communities’ daily lives.

Among its flagship initiatives: fleets of refrigerated trucks and mobile sales vehicles for isolated areas, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, electric vehicle lifecycle management, and energy management solutions.

Yamato also developed “My Medica,” an online health service for monitoring drivers’ well-being, illustrating a holistic approach where to innovate means to act for people, the climate, and society.

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When innovation meets imagination

During the session **“Where Innovation Meets Imagination”** speakers explored the role of AI as a catalyst for human creativity.

Miki Tsusaka (Microsoft Japan) presented AI as a “co-pilot” to unleash talent.

Philippe Godbout (Dassault Systèmes) demonstrated the possibilities of **virtual twins**, used notably in designing the France Pavilion at Expo Osaka 2025.

Arjun Sarwal (TikTok Japan) showed how AI can serve the public good, for instance by helping to ease tourist congestion in Kyoto.

Jesper Koll: An ambitious and confident Japan

Economist **Jesper Koll** summarized the spirit of the Japan Dream:

“The new Japan is A.B.C. – Ambitious, Bastion of stability, Confident.”

He praised the emergence of a new generation of risk-taking leaders, more open governance, and a society driven by technological and AI innovation serving humanity.

Kyoto: Harmony between tradition and modernity

Koji Matsui, Mayor of **Kyoto**, shared his vision of a resilient, educated, and creative Kyoto. A true university city (36 universities, 17 Nobel laureates), Kyoto embodies the balance between cultural heritage, scientific excellence, and entrepreneurial innovation.

The mayor aims to make it a model of sustainable entrepreneurship beyond tourism, grounded in the harmonious coexistence between culture and technology.

Ethical robotics: Technology serving humanity

In the fireside chat **“Draw Me a Robot,”** **Professor Gentiane Venture (University of Tokyo)** reminded that robotics, often overshadowed by AI, remains the physical foundation of innovation.

She advocated a transdisciplinary and ethical approach, where robots are designed not to replace, but to reconcile humans with their environment.

Rapidus: Japan’s industrial comeback

Atsuyoshi Koike (Rapidus Corporation) presented a strategic project aimed at restoring Japan’s global leadership in semiconductors.

Supported by Sony, Toyota, SoftBank, and Denso, the company is investing 3 to 4 trillion yen to produce 2-nanometer chips in Hokkaido by 2027.

Rapidus represents a new industrial era based on integrated co-creation and sustainability.

Japanese luxury: Emotion, service, and excellence

The fireside chat **“The Unique Experience of Japanese Shopping”** brought together **Jin Ryu (Fortress / Sogo & Seibu)** and **Norbert Leuret (LVMH Japan)**.

Fortress is transforming department stores into spaces of experience and connection, while LVMH reaffirmed its commitment to the Japanese market: *“Offering the best of the best for 40 years.”*

The LVMH “Dream” video illustrated this bond between creativity, emotion, and excellence.

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Innovation serving a sustainable energy future

The session “*Innovating for a Sustainable Energy Future*” brought together **Veolia, TotalEnergies, and Toyota Tsusho**.

All called for a progressive eco-transformation combining economic performance and positive environmental impact.

The key: open partnerships, long-term vision, and public trust, particularly for nuclear and energy recycling projects.

Biosciences: The egg as a capsule of life and innovation

In the fireside chat “*Eggs: Capsules of Life and Innovation*”, **Mujo Kim (Pharma Foods International)** presented pioneering research on eggshell membrane, transformed into eco-friendly, multifunctional fibers.

Textiles, energy, agriculture – the egg becomes a model of circular and sustainable innovation, merging science, nature, and creativity.

Takeda: Global boldness and Japanese tradition

In the fireside chat “*Japan Dream*,” **Christophe Weber (Takeda Pharmaceutical)** shared his experience as a global leader who successfully combines Japanese rigor and international openness. Under his leadership, Takeda has tripled its revenues following the acquisition of Shire, integrated within one year.

“Nationality doesn’t matter – integration is the key.”

Weber also highlighted the pivotal role of AI in pharmaceutical research and production.

Sports and culture: A lasting friendship

The final fireside chat, hosted by **Florent Dabadie**, brought together **Yoshimasa Sugawara**, legendary Dakar pilot, on the theme “*France-Japan: The Future of Sports & Entertainment*.”

Both celebrated **sport as a vector of cooperation and mutual respect**, reflecting the **Franco-Japanese cultural dialogue**, where the **Japanese spirit of courage and resilience** is also part of the **Japan Dream**.

A closing under the sign of Franco-Japanese cooperation

The event concluded with remarks from **Dominique Restino**, President of **CCI Paris Ile-de-France**, who praised the **quality of discussions** and the **strength of ties** between Japan and France, particularly on the economic front.

He noted that this year is **especially significant** for Franco-Japanese relations, marked by **Expo Osaka 2025**. As a partner, he attended the **France Pavilion National Day**, witnessing the **enthusiasm and emotion** generated by the initiative linking the French and Japanese pavilions.

Jérôme Chouchan, President of **CCI France Japon**, then thanked participants for their outstanding presence, noting that **more than 1,000 people attended this record edition**.

He recalled that the day’s main theme, “*Innovation and respect for traditions*,” perfectly embodies

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the philosophy of the **Japan Dream** – a balance between **modernity, continuity, and international openness**.

“Together, by collaborating with other countries, we can go even further.”

He praised the participation of major companies from the **AI, media, robotics, and biotech sectors**, all convinced that **Japan is now a true global innovation hub and a key strategic partner**.

He also expressed admiration for the **diversity and openness** that characterized the summit’s exchanges:

“We talked about biotechnology, robotics, smart cities, artificial intelligence, biopharma, and even the unexpected power of eggs – all symbols of Japan’s creativity and vitality.”

Finally, he concluded by reminding that **courage and resilience** are at the heart of the **Japan Dream**, calling for continued **Franco-Japanese cooperation** to build a common future founded on **trust, innovation, and humanism**.

See you at the next Business Summit on November 25, 2026, at Nikkei Hall!

About CCI France Japon

The **French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (CCI France Japon)** is one of the largest foreign chambers in Japan – the oldest, the first European chamber in Japan, and the third largest within the **CCI France International** network worldwide.

Since **1918**, **CCI France Japon** has built a solid business network of more than **700 members of all nationalities**. With offices and business centers in **Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Gunma, and Fukui**, the Chamber serves as an **international platform** promoting fruitful relations among its members and fostering **business opportunities between France and Japan**.

Its ambition for **2026** is to become Japan’s **leading international business community**, with **800 member companies**, **regional expansion, customized services**, and an **interactive communication platform**.

More information on **CCI France Japon** activities:

<https://www.ccifj.or.jp>

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