



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DIMENSIONS OF ITALY-JAPAN RELATIONS

A conference organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Italy-Japan Foundation in collaboration with the Japanese Embassy in Rome and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC)

On 25 August 1866, Japan and Italy signed the ‘Treaty of Amity and Commerce’, beginning a partnership that ever since has grown in quantity and quality. After 150 years of diplomatic ties, what are the current opportunities, and challenges, of their relationship?

Italy and Japan have a major role to play in promoting their shared values of democracy, human rights and market economics at the regional and global level. In the context of the EU-Japan partnership, Rome and Tokyo are cooperating on: (i) a Framework Agreement covering not only political dialogue and foreign policy coordination, but also regional and global issues; (ii) a Free Trade Agreement to stimulate growth on both sides.

Being two major industrialized nations, Italy and Japan collaborate in international and multilateral fora such as the UN, OECD, as well as in the context of informal fora such as the G7 and the G20. Despite the differing positions on the reform of the Security Council, the two countries are like-minded partners at the UN level, where they share similar approaches and views on a wide range of issues. Japan is currently chair of the G7 group, while Italy will take over the chair in 2017.

This conference aims to: (i) celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Italy diplomatic relations; (ii) examine the perspectives of the two countries on current global challenges, including discussion of their commitment to advancing EU-Japan dialogue and deepening cooperation in multilateral international for a (UN, OECD, G7 and G20).

Wednesday, 26 October 2016

9:00 – 13:00

Palazzo Baldassini

Sala Perin del Vaga

c/o Istituto Luigi Sturzo

Via delle Coppelle, 35 – Rome

Sponsored by



Agenda

- 9:00-9:30** **Registration of participants**
- 9:30-9:40** **Welcome address**
Ettore Greco, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali
- 9:45-11:15** **ITALY AND JAPAN AS REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL PARTNERS**
- Keynote remarks**
- Chair: Ettore Greco, Director, IAI
- Kazuyoshi Umemoto, Ambassador, Japan Embassy in Italy
Massimo Gaiani, Director General for Global Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Motoshige Itoh, Professor of Economics, Tokyo University
- 11:15-11:30** **Coffee break**
- 11:30-12:45** **AFTER 150 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: ITALIAN AND JAPANESE PERSPECTIVES ON CURRENT CHALLENGES AND SHARED RESPONSES**
- Chair: Nicola Casarini, Senior fellow, East Asia IAI
- Panel: Vittorio Volpi, Fellow of the Accademia Ambrosiana of Milan in cultures of the Far East
Michito Tsuruoka, Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Tokyo
- 12:45 – 13:00** **Closing remarks**
Umberto Vattani, President, Japan-Italy Foundation

Working language: English