



Waseda University
Brussels Office

PROGRAMME

WBO
CONFERENCE

6th Waseda Brussels Conference

Environmental Studies for Carbon Neutrality

Thursday 28 November, 2024

BrIAS Seminar Hall - Building AB level 0, Blvd. Général Jacques 210 1050 Ixelles



Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies



Environmental Studies for Carbon Neutrality

Climate change has become a matter of urgent concern for governments, public opinions and economies around the world. To tackle this global climate emergency, the international community has developed a broad range of responses, ranging from regulation, to technological innovation and, more recently, to financial tools and market mechanisms. Among these the first and most important is the introduction of carbon pricing – such as emissions trading schemes and carbon taxes.

The European Union has led the world by implementing the first carbon dioxide ‘cap and trade’ mechanism, known as EU-ETS since 2005. Many countries and regions have followed the EU-ETS, including the State of California in the US, as well as Korea and China. So far, Japan had only two regional ETSs in Tokyo and Saiatama. However Japan recently decided to introduce a nationwide ETS, known as GX-ETS (‘Green Transformation’-ETS). Although the GX-ETS started as a voluntary mechanism in 2023, it is expected to become mandatory in 2026. The precise design of the mandatory GX-ETS remains to be determined.

Despite the diffusion of carbon pricing, implementation challenges remain. Neither the level of pricing nor the international coverage and intensity of adoption have been as ambitious as the EU expects. As a consequence, there is a strong concern in the EU about ‘carbon leakage’. This concern led to the introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which requires EU importers of energy-intensive goods (such as steel, cement, machinery, etc.) to purchase emission certificates at the EU-ETS price level. The EU CBAM, a unilateral approach to mitigation, has led to controversy, as some countries and sectors view CBAM as a protectionist policy. In addition, it has been suggested that CBAM may conflict with WTO rules and regulations, and may be challenged at that level.

Another promising approach is through market mechanisms and the financial markets. Sustainable finance has clearly a key role in promoting carbon neutrality. Financial sectors can exert a strong influence on private investment. An example are the so-called ‘green bonds’. Firms or governments can access financial resources for green innovation by issuing green bonds. If financial institutions shift their resources from the ‘brown sector’ to the ‘green sector’, this may bring a major change in the economy and accelerate the path to carbon neutrality. The EU has taken a leading role in developing rules and regulations to encourage sustainable finance, while the Japanese financial sector has also been active in this area. In a recent development on GX, the Japanese government has started to issue GX economy transition bonds to finance R&D and innovation for green technologies in Japan.

Against this background, the conference will present the current state of play in policy developments and academic research on carbon pricing, CBAM, and sustainable finance in the EU and Japan. Distinguished scholars, international experts, government officials and industry representatives from the EU and Japan will share their insights, and exchange views and ideas with participants. Key objectives will be to identify the next research topics on these crucial issues, and foster future collaboration between the EU and Japan in both the academic and policy arenas.





08:30 - 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome words Chair: Jean-Louis Moortgat (Waseda University Brussels Office) Masahiko Gemma Vice-President for International Affairs & International Fundraising, Waseda University Anne Weyembergh Vice-Rector for External Relations & Cooperation, ULB Franz Deconinck Co-Director, Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies H.E. Kazutoshi Aikawa Ambassador, Mission of Japan to the European Union H.E. Jean-Eric Paquet - Video message Ambassador of the European Union to Japan
KEYNOTES	
09:20 - 10:20	Chair: Rainer Klump (Goethe University Frankfurt) Ottmar Edenhofer (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research) <i>Carbon Pricing, Carbon Removals and the Challenge of Net-Negative.</i> Bernard Siman (Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Egmont Institute) <i>Title TBD.</i>
10:20 - 10:50	Coffee break
SESSION I - CARBON PRICING AND CBAM: RATIONALE AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES	
10:50 - 12:30	Chair: Elean Shadrina (Waseda University) Toshi H. Arimura (Waseda University) <i>Title TBD.</i> Katheline Schubert (Paris School of Economics) <i>Title TBD.</i> Hurtado Roa (European Commission, DG TAXUD) <i>Title TBD.</i> Hidemichi Yonezawa (Statistics Norway) <i>Title TBD.</i> Kurt Van Dender (OECD) <i>Title TBD.</i> Kevin Verbelen (AGORIA & Brussels Diplomatic Academy) - TBC <i>Title TBD.</i>
12:30 - 14:00	Networking Lunch



SESSION II - TRANSITION TO THE GREEN ECONOMY

14:00 - 15:40	Chair: Toshi H. Arimura (Waseda University) Rainer Klump (Goethe University Frankfurt) <i>Title TBD.</i> Elean Shadrina (Waseda University) <i>Title TBD.</i> Shigeru Matsumoto (Aoyama University) <i>Title TBD.</i> Estelle Cantillon (ULB) <i>Belgium's transition and transition potential to a green economy (joint with Mattia Nardotto, ULB)</i> Koen Coppenholle (CEMBUREAU - The European Cement Association) <i>Title TBD.</i> Naohide Fuwa (Toyota Motor Europe) <i>Title TBD.</i>
15:40 - 16:00	Coffee break

SESSION III - SUSTAINABILITY: A KEY ROLE FOR UNIVERSITIES

16:00 - 17:30	Chair: Enrico Schleiff (Goethe University Frankfurt) - TBC Pierre Coheur (ULB) - TBC <i>Title TBD.</i> Manabu Inuzuka (Waseda University) <i>Title TBD.</i> TBD (Stockholms Universitet) - TBC <i>Title TBD.</i> TBD (Aix-Marseille Université) - TBC <i>Title TBD.</i> TBD (EU Joint Research Center) - TBC <i>Title TBD.</i> TBD (BrIAS) - TBC <i>Title TBD.</i>
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CONCLUDING WORDS

17:30 - 17:45	Toshi H. Arimura (Waseda University)
17:45 - 19:00	Farewell Reception



Waseda University Brussels Office

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