



VEEVYSLANECTVO JAPONSKA  
V SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKE  
在スロバキア日本国大使館



# International Seminar

## “Connectivity Between Europe and Asia – Japanese Perspective”

Date: February 27th (Wed), 2019, 17:00-

Venue: University Library in Bratislava  
(Ventúrska 11, Bratislava)

Language: English

### PROGRAMME

17:00 - 18:30

#### Opening remarks

- **H.E. Jun Shimmi**, Ambassador of Japan to the Slovak Republic

#### Moderator

- **Pavol Demeš**, Former Minister of International Relations

#### Keynote Speaker

- **Yoko Hirose**, Professor of Keio University

#### Speakers/Discussants

- **Alexander Micovčín**, Director General for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
- **Ľuboš Ďurič**, Director of Department for Road and Inland Waterway Infrastructure Projects, Ministry of Transport and Construction
- **Alexander Duleba**, Director of the Research Centre of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)

#### Questions & Answers

18:30 – 19:30

#### A glass of wine and networking

## Focus of the seminar

Connectivity has become a key strategic concept in the international community. Japan has advocated “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” since 2016. The EU adopted “Strategy for Connecting Europe and Asia” in September 2018. Other actors have also promoted their own initiatives, “Eurasian Economic Union” of Russia and “One Belt, One Road” of China, among others. This seminar sheds light on connectivity between Europe and Asia from the Japanese perspective as well as from the European and Slovak perspectives.

## Profile

### Moderator

**Pavol Demeš**

Former Minister of  
International Relations



Former Minister of International Relations (1991-2) and Foreign Policy Advisor to the first President of the Slovak Republic Michal Kováč (1993-1997). He is freelance foreign policy analyst, author and anchor.

### Keynote Speaker

**Yoko Hirose**

Professor of Keio University



She graduated from Keio University, obtained M.A. in Law from the graduate school of University of Tokyo and obtained Ph.D in Media and Governance at Keio University (2006). She was Research Fellow of the UNU at UNDP, Azerbaijan.

Her research interests include International Politics, Comparative Politics, Peace and Conflict Study, Regional Study on the Former USSR.

### Speaker/Discussant

**Alexander Micovčín**

Director General for European  
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and  
European Affairs



He entered Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994 and started his career in Middle East and Africa Department. He has been assigned in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Nairobi (Kenya), Copenhagen (Denmark), Berlin (Germany) and Brussel (as Deputy Permanent Representative of the SR). He also held positions including Officer of Eastern European and Balkan countries Department, Deputy European Correspondent of the CFSP Department and DG for Economic Cooperation and ODA.

### Speaker/Discussant

**Ľuboš Ďurič**

Director, Department for Road  
and Inland Waterway  
Infrastructure Projects, Ministry  
of Transport and Construction



He entered Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic (2005). He also worked at International Organization for Migration in Bratislava (2008) and was Financial Manager of International Visegrad Fund in Bratislava (2008).

He has been in the current position since 2011.

### Speaker/Discussant

**Alexander Duleba**

Director of the Research  
Centre of the SFPA



He graduated from Taras Shevchenko University in Kiev (1989) and was awarded CSc by the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1998), and received his doctor habilitatus from Comenius University in Bratislava (2009).

He has been with the SFPA since 1995 and its Director of the Research Centre and Head of the Eastern Europe Research Program since 2000.

### Organizer

**Jun Shimmi**

Ambassador of Japan to the  
Slovak Republic



Ambassador Shimmi entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1983 and assigned posts overseas in France, Belgium (EU), Thailand, NY (UN), Washington DC (as Minister), and Djibouti (as Ambassador). He also held positions in Tokyo including Executive secretary to the Chief Cabinet Secretariat at the Prime Minister's Office, Director for EU, Director for National Security Policy, Deputy DG for Asia, Deputy DG for Policy Planning, and DG for Cultural Cooperation at MOFA.