

Report of EUJ Academic Seminar Series

Series No.	99
Date	5 June 2009
Venue	Kobe University
Speaker	H.E. Mr. Jorma Julin, Ambassador of Finland to Japan
Topic	Finland's Public Policies for Competitiveness
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to introduce Finland's public policies to enhance competitiveness of its economy, mainly focusing on its efficient educational system. - to discuss the importance of welfare society or social safety net which supports its market economy to be more competitive.
Conclusion	<p>Finland is well-known globally for its competitiveness and innovations. The lecture introduced public policies that enabled high scores of Finland in several international comparisons. Mostly stressed was an efficient educational system which is a key element that allows all human resources, regardless of gender, to get high-level education for free, which led to the creation of globally competitive innovations. To grow those innovations to be internationally solid business, the cooperation between different sectors is well organized, such as between private sectors, universities and public sectors or between parties from technology, business administration and design. These collaborations allows different parties to understand each other, to seek synergy and to foster cross-boarder and market-oriented innovations. The ambassador also emphasized the importance of social safety net to contribute to economic development. Finland realizes an ideal combination of social market economy and welfare society.</p> <p>In the era of globalization, Finland was also affected by recent financial crisis, however, they trust in open economy and embrace globalization as it allows access to wider market, foreign capital and knowledge.</p> <p>As Finland has to import most of its energy resources and cannot be an independent nation, innovation is a key factor to keep creating value-added new products and services as a source for export.</p> <p>For Finland, to be a member of the EU is beneficial considering the negotiation power of the EU and strong and stable currency of the Euro. To operate under the EU's common policies, compromises are sometimes needed, but Finland favors EU as an instrument as monitoring and giving peer pressure.</p>
Number of Audiences	39 (26 students, 4 researchers and 9 general public)