

25th Spain Japan Forum

Shared Vision, Common Challenges: Strengthening the Spain–Japan Alliance

The 25th edition of the Spain–Japan Forum takes place at a time of profound global uncertainty. The transformation of the international order, rising geopolitical tensions, and the impact of climate change have called into question many of the longstanding agreements that have supported global stability for decades. In this turbulent context, Spain and Japan recognize each other as strategic partners, united by a shared worldview: a commitment to multilateralism, respect for international law, support for innovation, and the search for sustainable solutions to major global challenges.

For over two decades, the Spain–Japan Forum has served as a consolidated platform for dialogue between both countries. The 25th Forum will focus on three key issues for our shared future: the redefinition of international alliances in a shifting economic landscape; disaster management as a shared challenge; and food security through innovation in the agri-food sector. In addition, the program will include a reflection on the new challenges of international tourism, in an increasingly competitive global environment and with evolving traveler expectations. All these discussions pursue a single goal: to strengthen an alliance based on trust, mutual understanding, and joint action.

Agenda

All buses will depart from and leave for the Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià.

Av de Sarrià, 50. Barcelona.

Wednesday October 22nd

15:15 Bus Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià - Sagrada Família

16:00 – 17:30 Visit to Sagrada Família

- 17:30** **Bus Sagrada Família – Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià**
- 19:50** **Bus Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià-Convent dels Àngels**
- 20:15 – 23:00** **Welcome reception and dinner hosted by Diputació de Barcelona**
- Convent dels Àngels
- Plaça dels Àngels, 5 - Ciutat Vella, Barcelona
- 23:00** **Bus Convent dels Àngels-Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià**

Thursday October 23rd

Central event

Palacio de Pedralbes - Av. Diagonal, 686 - Les Corts, Barcelona

Please note that sessions 1, 2 and 3, plus keynote speeches, will be held in English, with interpretation available to Spanish

- 08:15** **Bus Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià -Palacio de Pedralbes**
- 08:30 – 09:00** **Registration and welcome**
- 09: 00 – 09:30** **Opening ceremony**

Opening remarks by:

- *Ángeles Delgado, Co-Chair of the Spain–Japan Forum*
- *Yoshio Sato, Co-Chair of the Spain–Japan Forum*
- *Luis Fonseca, Director General for North American, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain*
- *Takeshi Akahori, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan*
- *Salvador Illa, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia*

- 09:30 – 11:00** **Session 1 – Redefining Alliances: The New Global Landscape and Its Economic Impact**

The international order is entering a new phase that challenges long-standing global agreements. The shift in U.S. foreign policy under the second Trump administration has far-reaching implications—from the future of the conflict in Ukraine to the strategic reconfiguration of the Asia-Pacific region. This session will explore the key questions of this evolving landscape, with particular attention to economic consequences such as rising tariffs and increasing trade tensions.

Moderator: Fidel Sendagorta, former Ambassador of Spain to Japan

- *Motoshige Itoh, Professor of Economics at the University of Tokyo*
- *Harukata Takenaka, Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies*
- *Pol Morillas, Director of the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)*
- *Lluc Vidal, Senior Lecturer at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC)*

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 11:45 A conversation – Past, present and future of the Spain Japan Forum

Antonio Garrigues Walker, Honorary Chairman of Garrigues

José Pintor, Director General at Casa Asia

11:45 – 12:00 Keynote speech – New Challenges for International Tourism

Juan Cierco, Corporate Director at Iberia

12:00 – 13:30 Session 2 – Natural Disaster Management: Shared Challenges, Joint Solutions

Recent extreme weather events in Spain, such as the DANA storm in Valencia, have reignited the debate on preparedness and response to natural disasters. With long-standing experience in this field, Japan offers a valuable reference point. This session will allow for the exchange of best practices in emergency management, while also incorporating a technological and business-oriented perspective on how to anticipate, mitigate, and respond effectively to these challenges.

Moderator: Seiichiro Taguchi, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

- *Marta Cassany, Director General of Civil Protection, Catalonia Government*
- *Alicia Asín, Co-founder and CEO of Libelium*
- *Amadeo Benavent, Professor at Madrid Polytech University (UPM)*
- *Setsuko Saya, Director of OECD Development Center*

13:30 – 15:00 Work lunch

15:00 – 16:30 Session 3 – From Farm to Table: Innovation and Food Security in Spain and Japan

Spain and Japan face shared challenges related to sustainable food systems, supply chain resilience, and the impact of climate change on agricultural production. This session will explore innovative solutions for feeding populations in a safe and sustainable manner, in line with growing demands for health and environmental responsibility. From new farming techniques to circular economy initiatives, participants will debate strategies that combine tradition, innovation, and a forward-looking vision. Special emphasis will be placed on experiences that link gastronomy to agri-food innovation and promote resilient, healthy, and environmentally conscious models.

Moderator: Laia Piñol, Head of the Projects and Contracts Office, Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA)

- *Kunihiro Shimoji, Chief Operating Officer of EFPOLYMER*
- *Laia Badal, Innovation Area Manager at Fundació Alicia*
- *Alain Sicard, President of European Sakata Holding SAS*
- *José M. Gil, Director of Center for Agro-Food Economics and Development*

16:30 – 16:45 Closing ceremony, end of central event

16:45 Bus Palacio de Pedralbes – Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià

19:30 Bus Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià - Fundació Joan Miró

20:00 – 21:00 Private visit, Museum Fundació Joan Miró

Parc de Montjuïc, s/n

Sants-Montjuïc, Barcelona

21:00 – 23:00 **Closing dinner hosted by Generalitat de Catalunya at the Fundació Joan Miró**

23:00 **Bus Fundació Joan Miró – Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià**

Friday, October 24th

09:10 **Bus Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià – Barcelona Chamber of Commerce**

09:30 – 11:00 **Business breakfast at the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce**

Av. Diagonal, 452

Barcelona

11:30 **Bus Barcelona Chamber of Commerce - CECAT**

11:45 – 12:45 **Technical visit to Operational Coordination Center of Catalonia (CECAT)**

C/ Diputació, 355

Barcelona

13:00 **Bus CECAT – Restaurante Barceloneta**

13:30 – 15:00 **Farewell lunch**

Restaurante Barceloneta

C/ de l'Escar, 22 - Moll dels Pescadors (Port Vell)

08039 Barcelona

15:00 **Bus Restaurante Barceloneta – Hotel Melià Barcelona Sarrià**