

Joint Communiqué of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Japan) and
the Government of Brussels-Capital Region (Kingdom of Belgium)

With this year marking the 150th anniversary of friendship between Japan and Belgium and on the occasion of the State Visit of their Majesties the King and the Queen of the Belgians, a meeting was held between Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and Brussels-Capital Region Minister-President Rudi Vervoort in Tokyo, during which a wide range of topics were discussed, including the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, environmental issues, and future urban planning.

During the exchange of opinions, the governor of Tokyo expressed her intent to build a sustainable Tokyo—a capital where everyone can live with a sense of hope, vitality, and reassurance and which continues to shine globally as the engine that drives the growth of Japan.

The Minister-President of the Brussels-Capital Region welcomed this vision and called for a deeper collaboration between the two capitals, which have much in common as metropolises and face similar challenges.

The governor also introduced the word *Mottainai* as a simple Japanese term that expresses the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) concept, and stated her determination to apply this distinctive Japanese value to the Tokyo 2020 Games as well, in order to lead the Games to success.

The Minister-President spoke about the renewal of Brussels over the past 25 years and the need for the capital, serving 500 million Europeans, to stay close to its residents, offer them cutting-edge infrastructure and enhance their quality of life.

In addition to expressing respect and support for each other's ideas, the two leaders confirmed that they would work together to resolve issues common to the world's major cities and to enhance benefits to residents.

Signed in Tokyo on October 11, 2016.

Yuriko Koike
Governor of Tokyo

Rudi Vervoort
Minister-President of
the Brussels-Capital Region
