



EBC summer lecture and information exchange meeting

On Thursday 24 August, **the EBC Medical Equipment and IVD Committee** organised a lecture and information exchange meeting at the Akasaka International Conference in Tokyo.

The event started with **Ms. Keiko Yoshida, medical journalist in Frankfurt, Germany**, who spoke about Germany's insurance and medical reimbursement systems. The features of the German public healthcare insurance system, inpatient healthcare (G-DRG¹, additional remunerations, NUB² etc.), and outpatient healthcare (DiGA³ and the future) were touched on. EBC members were, furthermore, interested in the difference between the Japanese healthcare system and the development of DiGA.

Mr. Hiroaki Tabata, Member of the House of Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party, talked about trends in digital health under the title "Looking Ahead to the 2024 Revision of Medical Fees." Being a member of the LDP's Health, Labour and Welfare Subcommittee and also a member of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Subcommittee, Mr. Tabata is involved in the process of revising medical fees and the law on pharmaceutical and medical devices⁴. He spoke about the political intentions of the government as well as Chuikyo⁵, medical institutions and medical equipment industry. He also covered digital transformation.

After the lecture, an information exchange meeting was held. Mr. Tabata, Mr. Watanabe (Director, Medical & Assistive Device Industries Office, Commerce and Service Industry Policy Group, METI⁶), and Mr. Takahashi (Assistant Executive Officer, PMDA⁷) gave opening remarks. Afterwards, participants from MHLW⁸, METI, PMDA and industry associations such as JFMDA⁹, AMDD¹⁰, representatives from the Netherlands Embassy, and the EU Delegation discussed various topics about medical equipment industry and the event closed.

In the next fiscal year, revisions to medical treatment fees and the law on pharmaceutical and medical devices are scheduled. The EBC believes that there



will be a few months for further activities as a European committee and aims for successful results for European companies.





¹ German Diagnosis Related Group

² Neue Untersuchungs und Behandlungsmethoden : New Examination and Treatment Methods

³ Digitale Gesundheitsanwendungen: Digital Health Applications

⁴ Its full name is: Act on securing quality, efficacy and safety of products, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices

⁵ Central Social Insurance Medical Council

⁶ Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

⁷ Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device Agency

⁸ Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

⁹ The Japan Federation of Medical Devices Association

¹⁰ American Medical Devices and Diagnostic Manufacturers' Association