14 December 2023

European Research Day
2023 in Tokyo
Basic facts about Iceland

- Official language: Icelandic
- Population: 400,000 (18% foreign born)
- Total area: 102,775 km²
- Iceland became an independent country in 1918 & a republic in 1944.
- Iceland’s Althingi is the oldest parliament in the world, founded in 930.
- Member of the United Nations from 1946, founding member of NATO in 1949 and joined the European Economic Area in 1992.
- Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year according to the WEF Global Gender Gap Index.
Iceland-Japan relations & collaboration

- **Diplomatic relations** established in 1956.
- **Embassies** opened in both countries in 2001.
- Iceland and Japan have long-standing cooperation in the fields of energy, climate, and science, including in the Arctic.
- **Arctic Science Ministerial** (ASM3) co-hosted by Iceland and Japan in Tokyo, May 2021.
- **Arctic Circle Japan Forum**, March 2023.
Examples from Iceland: seafood industry – renewable energy

- Research and innovation play a **key role in economic development**, culture, and welfare.
- Innovation in traditional sectors, such as the **seafood industry**, has created new business opportunities while decreasing waste.
  - Ocean Cluster: [www.oceancluster.is](http://www.oceancluster.is)
- Iceland has decades-long experience with geothermal and hydroelectric **renewable energy**.
  - Green by Iceland: [www.greenbyiceland.com](http://www.greenbyiceland.com)
Research & innovation highlights and funding opportunities

Rannís manages international cooperation programmes and national funds in the field of research and innovation. Rannís coordinates Icelandic participation in European programmes, such as Horizon 2020, the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, promotes the programme in Iceland and manages the National Contact Points for the programme. Further information: en.rannis.is