

## Greetings from the Ambassador of Japan to the Federal Republic of Germany

YANAGI Hidenao

On 7 December last year, I presented my credentials to President STEINMEIER and officially began my service as ambassador. After studying in Japan, I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982, and was given the opportunity to study at the University of Konstanz for two years. Having worked at the Embassy in Bonn and Berlin and serving as consul general in Munich, I have lived in Germany for over 11 years altogether. It is my great honor and pleasure to now return to Germany as ambassador after serving as ambassador to Jordan for just under three years.

With regard to the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), I was able to accompany the Japan Business Federation (*Keidanren*) and Kansai Economic Federation (*Kankeiren*) chairman mission in November 1987 on the occasion of the opening of the JDZB's premises at the current embassy, an event attended by Crown Prince Naruhito (now His Majesty the Emperor of Japan). I also have fond memories of Prime Minister KAIFU's visit to Berlin in January 1990, shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, whereby I was one of the interpreters when he gave a lecture at the JDZB. After this, the JDZB moved to its current location, but I remember visiting many times and attending seminars during my time in Berlin between 2006 and 2009. In April 2014, I visited from

Tōkyō to attend a security conference. In Germany, too, the Covid-19 pandemic has spread, and the situation continues to be serious. In light of such circumstances, on January 19 the German government put in place measures such as the mandatory wearing of medical masks and the strengthening of contact restrictions in order to prevent further infections. Furthermore, lockdown, including the closure of restaurants and retail stores, has been extended. There are some grounds for optimism, such as the roll-out of vaccinations that began at the end of last year, but the corona situation will continue to be fluid and highly unpredictable. I strongly hope that life will have normalized somewhat by the time you read this, but I humbly ask that you continue to pay attention to the latest corona-related information, including the embassy and consulate websites, consular emails, and the websites of the various German states, and prevent infection by all means possible.

Germany has around 45,000 Japanese residents and more than 1,800 Japanese companies, the largest concentration in Europe. Grassroots civic exchange is also widespread, with 56 Japanese-German twinned cities, around 50 German-Japanese associations, and more than 1600 inter-university agreements.



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Against this background, this year is the 160th anniversary of Japan-Germany relations, and although the coronavirus necessitates some restrictions, we would like to further deepen cordial relations by means of various events in Japan and Germany.

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On the political front, Japan and Germany are both U.S. allies and partners that share fundamental values such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. In response to the challenges faced by a rules-based international order, efforts by like-minded countries are essential to protect this order. The Indo-Pacific Guidelines formulated by the German government in September last year set out principles such as freedom of navigation, the rule of law, and connectivity, and are highly appreciated by the Japanese government, which advocates a “free and open Indo-Pacific”, as a project to strengthen cooperation with Japan. It is my hope that Japan and Germany will work even more closely together in the Indo-Pacific region in the future.

On the economic front, too, Japan-Germany relations are close. Germany is Japan’s largest European trade partner, and Japan is Germany’s second largest trade partner in Asia after China. Japan advocates the conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) as a standard-bearer of free trade, and trade between Japan and the EU has been expanding since the Japan-EU EPA entered into force in February 2019.

Japan-Germany cooperation is also important in the environmental and high-tech fields. In October 2020, Prime Minister KAN announced Japan’s aim to be carbon neutral by 2050. Key to this are fresh innovations such as next-generation solar cells and carbon recycling. It is hoped that Germany and Japan, which have great technological prowess in the environmental field, will cooperate in driving global green industry.

The Tōkyō Olympic and Paralympic Games are scheduled to be held from July to September this year. I hope that the Games can be a sign of humanity overcoming the coronavirus and a demonstration to the world of recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and that many athletes from Germany will participate.

There are many think tanks in Germany, such as the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation; there is also the German Government’s German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tōkyō, while Japan has the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Japan Foundation. The JDZB, in cooperation with these organizations, is actively engaged in activities centered on Japan-Germany relations, such as co-organizing symposiums in Japan from its base in Berlin, and, thanks to its 30 years of activity, has been a valuable platform for intellectual exchange between the two countries. The JDZB also offers cultural projects, Japanese language classes, youth exchanges, etc., and I hope that, under new Secretary General MÜNCH, it will make an increasingly significant contribution as an indispensable bridge between Japan and Germany.

The coronavirus makes it difficult to predict the future, but as I take up my new post my wish is that Japan, Germany, and the world will overcome this pandemic as soon as possible and that 2021 will be a good, healthy year for everyone.

Dear Readers!

Our new website is online! Please visit us on [jdz.de](http://jdz.de). You will find details on upcoming events, our exchange programs and Japanese language and calligraphy courses, as well as background information on JDZB. Past projects will be documented with photos, videos and publications. The relaunch of the website is being carried out in cooperation with HTW – Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin (University of Applied Sciences).

To commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German-Japanese diplomatic contacts in 2021, we have also come up with something special: A specially created blog will be integrated into our new website as soon as possible, allowing us to share current news, opinions and reflections with you in the form of texts, photos and contribution via audio and video. In this way, we will introduce you to the activities of the JDZB and other people who are building bridges between Germany and Japan. We would like to provide food for thought, show potential for cooperation and initiate discussions. We are looking forward to it – and you too can look forward to it! For now, we hope you enjoy reading the first issue of this year’s *jdz echo*. For his interesting contribution to this issue we would like to thank H.E. YANAGI Hidenao, recently appointed to the new Ambassador of Japan in Germany. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome him again and look forward to our future cooperation.

We wish you all the best, and please stay healthy!

Dr. Julia MÜNCH, Secretary General  
KIYOTA Tokiko, Deputy Secretary General

#### **jdz echo**

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**On 4 February 2021, the Japanese-German Center Berlin, in cooperation with the Japan Foundation, held a Japan-Germany symposium: “Crisis Communication: Japanese and German Perspectives”. jdzbo echo spoke with Prof. SEKIYA Naoya (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, Center for Integrated Disaster Information Research (CIDIR), University of Tokyo), who participated as a panelist at the symposium.**

*Do methods of communication (dissemination of information) related to the covid-19 pandemic, as well as the impact and effectiveness of these, differ in Japan and Germany?*

I don't think there's much difference. In order to keep this disease under control, the behavior of each individual, such as refraining from going out, is crucial, but in Japan in particular, cluster strategies, i.e. clarifying transmission routes, are emphasized and the focus is on identifying and tracing high-risk contacts as a measure to prevent the spread of infection. Discrimination against those infected would also appear to have increased as a consequence of the pressure to conform being strong in Japan.

In crisis communication during a pandemic or crisis, fostering confidence in the bodies disseminating information, such as the government, is essential. However, in the case of Japan, the public has the experience of insufficient information being provided to them during the crisis involving the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima I nuclear power station as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Many people remember that, and in this sort of crisis that threatens our very survival, it's inevitable that a conservative attitude in terms of acquiring information develops. I think there was bound to be a tendency for the public to be cautious about accepting information unless doubts that the government and the media were providing information properly could be completely dispelled.

In fact, in the spring of 2020, comparisons were made to the Great East Japan Earthquake and there were discussions in the media and elsewhere about why this sort of thing happens repeatedly in Japan and why the government is incapable of properly disseminating information at such times, just like at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

*Has communication been different for coronavirus than in crises such as the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011?*

Comparing the two situations again, there are differences and similarities.

One difference is in the dissemination of information by experts. Compared to the Great

East Japan Earthquake, experts have played a huge role in the coronavirus crisis. At the time of the earthquake, the main experts were those in the fields of nuclear power and radiation, but this time the experts were virologists and medical personnel and I believe this to be significant. I think one of the big differences between radiation and nuclear experts and doctors and public health professionals is that the latter excel at dealing with patients and communicating with them as a matter of routine.

Another difference is the nature of the specialism. Some nuclear experts are critical of nuclear power, while others are affirmative. However, in the case of this coronavirus, the experts are generally in the fields of infectious disease treatment and public health, so they have a degree of common expertise even when their methods of expression differ. I also think that Japanese medical personnel have a good mathematical grounding and understanding of infectious diseases and so were capable of communication based on comprehension of the epi curve and the corona infection situation.

Similarity lies in the media. The situation at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake was similar in that the information transmitted by the media and online was disjointed and we didn't know what to trust. At the time of the earthquake, a lot of contradictory information on radiation doses, the spread of radioactive materials, what was happening at the nuclear power plants and so on was flying around and it was hard to know what to believe. Such was the situation in spring 2020 too, with varying coronavirus information being disseminated – for example with regard to PCR testing, treatment, hospitalization – and not knowing what to believe.

*What role do experts play in crisis communication following a state of emergency?*

Irrespective of country or era, there is social turmoil immediately after a crisis, rumors circulate, and you'll find many people panic-buying toilet paper. This is likely to remain the case. As the public's sense of anxiety increases, it is important to conscientiously communi-

cate facts and science-based information at the initial stage – I think turmoil within society in the direct aftermath is not unavoidable. There was some disruption in Germany too, but in Japan there were some experts who fueled anxiety, including a few virologists critical of the government or who created panic. However, on the whole, doctors and virologists basically have the same knowledge base, and what is said doesn't change, so I think the difference is between inflaming a sense of crisis and avoiding this by playing things down.

*Please tell us your thoughts on attending the online symposium in February? Did participation leave you with any fresh knowledge or awareness?*

Frankly, I was surprised that Japan's communication and infectious disease control were considered successful, and that, in particular, the “3Cs” strategy (*avoid the three Cs: closed spaces, crowded places, close-contact settings*) was thought to be a good infection countermeasure immediately after the outbreak. In Japan, many were critical that the Japanese version of the 3Cs weren't understandable or that countermeasure plans were just being drawn up at random. People were asking: Why don't we lock down like in Europe and the U.S.? Isn't it important to avoid social contact? Rather taking half-hearted measures, eliminating social contact, as implemented elsewhere, was supposed to be the most direct and effective countermeasure and there was criticism in the early stages that a hasty 3Cs strategy wasn't an appropriate response to the coronavirus.

The same goes for cluster countermeasures. These are not implemented in other countries, only in Japan. Essentially, social contact must be reduced, so many were critical that Japan failed to implement the lockdown that was seen as so important in other countries. Infection numbers were low in Japan. I think many Japanese didn't believe, that it was due to Japan's good infection control.

I was also surprised to learn that in Germany the Japanese government's communication strategy was considered successful. In Japan, it was rather Chancellor Angela MERKEL's message that was well received. I recognized once again that the “grass is always greener” when it comes to the situation in other countries, and that perceptions beyond national borders can also be quite different.

## Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control, and Non-Proliferation. German and Japanese Perspectives ahead of the NPT Review Conference Nakako HATTORI-ISHIMARU, M.A. (Freie Universität Berlin)

This timely and interdisciplinary symposium brought together high-ranking experts from politics, government, academia, and civil society from Germany, Japan, and other parts of the world. The 10th Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ahead of this conference, the symposium aimed to review the current state of the multilateral nuclear order and weigh sustainable pathways to nuclear disarmament embedded in the context of a standstill in nuclear disarmament and the proliferation crisis. It was organized by the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), and the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA). The virtual program took place over two consecutive days via Zoom on December 3 and December 4, 2020. The structure reflected the various areas and stakeholders of nuclear disarmament: Germany's and Japan's perspectives on the first day, followed by Asia's and Europe's regional viewpoints on the second day.

The program of the first day opened with scene-setting speeches by the representatives of JDZB, FES, and JIIA. While we celebrated both the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN) and the fiftieth anniversary of the entry-into-force of the NPT in 2020, the speakers pointed out that nuclear weapons still pose an imminent threat to humanity under the turbulent changes in the world order. All emphasized the expectations with regards to the upcoming NPT Review Conference and changing nuclear dynamics as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will come into force on January 22, 2021. The TPNW, or ban treaty, prohibits undertakings to acquire, use, develop, test, produce, and stockpile nuclear weapons. The role of civil society, such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner, is crucial in order to draw attention to the nuclear

weapons' catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Both Germany and Japan are non-nuclear-weapon states. They have actively contributed to multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and both share various challenges in their mission to build a nuclear-free world. Both governments and societies are responsible for contributing to progressive as well as peace policy approaches while tackling the complexity of their respective regional power politics and nuclear arms controls.

For a successful Review Conference of the NPT, both countries should invest more resources and enhance the existing non-proliferation framework as precious assets. On the other hand, the dynamism which the TPNW process has generated in the nuclear regime should not be understated, even if both countries, just like many European states, have not participated yet.

The second discussion panel widened the scope of nuclear dynamics in a regional context of Europe and Asia. The key questions included: what are the measures required of US allies in order to maintain nuclear deterrence; what is the regional impact of the current situation of the multilateral nuclear disarmament framework. Also, what are the required measures for nuclear arms controls in both regions; what are national measures for a state of both regions to address the growing nuclear risks; as well as possible bilateral and inter-regional cooperation. In the final discussion, the panel reflected on the recurring themes of the conventional nuclear deterrence regime's limitation in order to create stable global peace. Motivated by the audience's questions, the speakers delved into the different approaches toward the ban treaty taken by several states in the regions, i.e., Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand. All the speakers agreed that we need to develop a more inclusive and broader scope of nuclear disarmament and international security.





**The challenges faced by child and youth welfare professionals in Germany and Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic**  
**NISHIMURA Takayuki (Associate Professor, Hokusho University, School of Lifelong Sports, Department of Sports Education)**

2020 was a year in which the whole world was at the mercy of the coronavirus. This ongoing pandemic is creating new social risks for us: not only is everyone at risk of infection, but social anxiety, coupled with policies designed to curb the explosive spread of the disease (e.g., restrictions on movement and shortened hours for restaurants), continues to have serious negative impact on our lives (unemployment, hardship, domestic violence, homelessness, suicide, etc.). It should not be forgotten that these risks affect the socially disadvantaged in particular: women, single parents, the elderly, people with disabilities, non-regular employees, the poor, foreigners, etc..

**Aid and support that continues to connect people to each other and society**

At the online seminar of “German-Japanese Study Program for Child and Youth Welfare Professionals” in December 2020, participants actively shared their corona-related experiences. With in-person developmental aid and support greatly constrained, the focus of exchange and discussion was on how practices have been developed to prevent the isolation and mental/physical strain of socially disadvantaged children and parents. We have worked through trial and error to provide vulnerable children and parents with information on infection prevention and with resources for social education activities, such as Christmas tree decoration kits and videos for physical exercise at home, and has maintained “remote assistance and support” by being in touch regularly with messages such as “I’m looking out for you”. With youth facilities closed, outreach-type support has been provided by visiting places where young people gather, and while many of the events planned at the beginning of the year have been canceled, practical initiatives and “in-person aid and support” are being resumed in those facilities (mainly in Japan) that are available under infection-preventative conditions.

The smallest units of society – the family – are under enormous pressure to cope with the social situation caused by the corona crisis. In the hybrid practice described above, which utilizes the social workers’ skills, we play an

important role in forming connections with socially disadvantaged children and parents, thus ensuring their sense of connection with society and of security. In doing so, we must maintain our own mental and physical health as we provide assistance and support, since our own lives are also exposed to risk and uncertainty because of the corona crisis. The seminar highlighted the importance of creating a working environment that emphasizes the care of staff to help them cope with everyday stress.

**Fears of widening inequality**

The online seminar also addressed the limits of aid and support. There are disparities here among local governments and regions. Children and parents in rural cities with poor infrastructure have little opportunity to benefit from remote aid and support. In socially disadvantaged families, especially those with several children, it is difficult to create environments for quiet study. Moreover, unemployment has increased because of the crisis and, in Japan, women in non-regular employment have been greatly affected. In particular, many single mothers in part-time or irregular employment are experiencing financial distress, nor can we overlook these same negative effects on the family income of dual-income households. Even middle-class families who can weather the situation in the short term are in the precarious situation of not knowing when they might fall into poverty due to unemployment, the decline in the part-time incomes of the mothers or even a decrease in the income of the family’s male, full-time earners. The increased social risk caused by the corona crisis not only creates further economic disparities between people, but also accelerates the decline of a society where people can live with peace of mind.

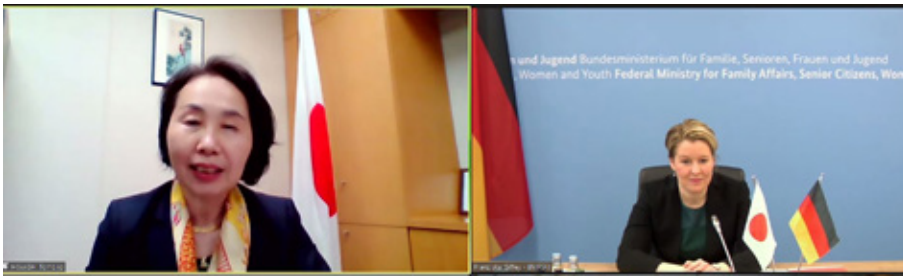
**Towards actors in civil society who fight against social exclusion**

In the “With Corona” age, the generous provision of aid and support in the fields of education, welfare, and labor is essential for the inclusion of socially disadvantaged children and parents in society. And in such times of instability, we must pursue assistance



and support (universal services) in parallel with urgent, targeted services to help people divided by social strata re-connect through the activities of a diverse civil society. The key is the development of civil society-based actors for solidarity against social exclusion. While in Germany in 2019, I learned that German society is rooted in the philosophy and practice of enabling the social participation of children and young people through youth activities in local communities. It is difficult to develop a practice that encourages social participation when circumstances make coming together in one “place” a challenge. So that we as child and youth welfare professionals from both countries can better dedicate ourselves to this task, I hope that we can build a German-Japanese network for mutual support, and develop and exchange best practices, new findings and ideas.

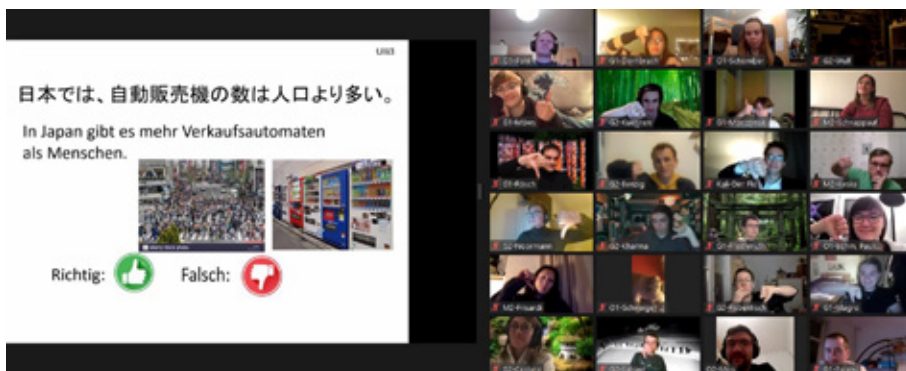
*The author is participant in the German-Japanese Study Program for Child and Youth Welfare Professionals, which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The annual theme changes every three years. Since 2019 it has been “Poverty in Childhood and Youth: Challenges and Solutions”. The JDZB is responsible for implementing the program on the German side, while the National Institution for Youth Education was responsible on the Japanese side in 2019.*



“Women can do anything” said Federal Minister for Family Affairs Franziska GIFFEY at the virtual symposium “25 Years of the Beijing Declaration and Five Years of Agenda 2030: Progress in the Policy Field of Gender Equality in Japan and Germany” at the JDZB on 4 and 5 March 2021 (pictured right, left HAYASHI Tomoko, Director-General; Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office).

In the run-up to International Women’s Day, renowned speakers took stock of successes, lack of progress and possible solutions for equality in politics and the world of work in both countries. In addition to the Director of the UN Women Japan Liaison Office, Ishikawa Kae, and the German Ambassador to Japan, Ina LEPEL, development cooperation experts provided insights into Japan and Germany’s commitment to promoting equality at the international level.

Prof. Dr. Ute KLAMMER (University of Duisburg-Essen) addressed the “fragility of egalitarian role models” in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of men and women, while Prof. Dr. SHIRAHASE Sawako (Tokyo University) spoke pointedly about how women are more strongly affected by the negative consequences of the pandemic due to structural inequalities. The speakers agreed, however, that the crisis also brings with it opportunities for social change toward greater equality. The task now is to take advantage of these opportunities. The JDZB will continue to place the topic of “gender equality” on its agenda.



Japan quiz of Senior Class 2 at the digital graduation ceremony of the JDZB’s Japanese and calligraphy courses on 9 December 2020. The annual celebrations could not take place in person at the JDZB due to COVID-19 – nevertheless numerous participants\* from all course levels participated with their own presentations and had lots of fun.



MAUERSPIEL: An interactive word and movement game held as a workshop with the Japanese performer TEZUKA Natsuko (top left) in the Zoom version on 15 and 16 December 2020, in cooperation with the Japan Cultural Institute Cologne (The Japan Foundation). Participants experienced how to communicate when you don’t know the language of the other person.

## CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

### GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

#### Security Policy Workshop, Track 1.5

C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin; The Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tōkyō  
Date: 19 May 2021

#### Conference: Global Health IV

C: National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM, Tōkyō); Waseda University; Alexander von Humboldt University, Berlin; Heidelberg University/Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH); Association of Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies, Berlin  
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Tōkyō

#### Symposium: The Role of Japan and Germany in a Changing World Order

C: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS, Berlin); German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP, Berlin), Asia-Pacific Initiative (API, Tōkyō)  
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Tōkyō

### SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the German-Japanese Expert Council on Energy Transition

C: Hennicke Consult, Wuppertal; ECOS Japan Consult GmbH (Osnabrück); Institute for Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ, Tōkyō); Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi, Berlin); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI, Tōkyō) (by invitation only)  
Date: 13-14 September 2021

#### Symposium: The Role of Digitization in Sustainability

C: German Economic Institute (IW, Cologne); Fujitsu Ltd., Tōkyō  
Date: October 2021, in Tōkyō

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

#### Symposium: Demographic Change in Germany and Japan

C: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ, Berlin); Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW, Tōkyō)  
Date: October 2021, in Tōkyō

**Conference: Aging and Care in German and Japanese Communities**

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ, Tōkyō); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Tōkyō office  
Date: November 2021, in Tōkyō

**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION****Symposium: Hello Japan! How to establish Transcontinental SME Collaboration**

C: Shinshū University, Nagano; German Research Ambassadors Network for Industrial Technology Endeavors (GRANITE) of the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology (FIT, St. Augustin)  
Date: 25 May 2021

**French-German Dialog on Japan II: AI and Health**

C: France-Japan Foundation of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, Paris); Duisburg-Essen University  
Date: 16-17 September 2021, in Paris

**Conference: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Areas and Legal Norms**

C: German-Japanese Association of Jurists (DJJV, Hamburg)  
Date: 19 November 2021, in Tōkyō

**STATE, ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE****VJSF Annual Conference: Continuity and Change 10 Years after 3.11.**

C: Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VJSF)  
Date: 19 March 2021

**Conference: Olympia 2020: The Importance of Major Sporting Events for Society, Politics and the Economy**

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies (Tōkyō)  
Date: 17 June 2021

**Symposium: The Future of Democracy I: Conservatism and Populism**

C: Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka; Duisburg-Essen University; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Berlin)  
Date: 31 August 2021

**Symposium: Depressive in the Crisis? Socio-psychological Impacts of the Pandemic**

C: German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH, Tōkyō)  
Date: 10 June 2021, in Tōkyō

**CULTURE AND CHANGE****German-Japanese Architects Dialog**

C: Association of German Architects, Berlin; Technical University Dortmund; Technical University Berlin  
Date: To be confirmed in 2021

**SPECIAL PROJECT****Symposium: Progress in the Policy Field of Gender Equality in Japan and Germany**

Date: 4-5 March 2021

**29th German-Japanese Forum**

C: Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), Tōkyō; Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō  
Date: 20-21 May 2021

**CULTURAL EVENTS****EXHIBITION****Dialog Exhibition “Silent Shadows”**

Paper Reliefs by Iso Masko and Installations by Wolf KAHLEN  
Duration: 25 September 2020 until 7 May 2021

**“The rain falls and the ground hardens”**

Sculptures and installations by AKIMOTO Naomi and Claudia SCHMACKE  
Duration: 31 May until 22 July 2021

**“Good Morning My Moon”**

Photographs by Nicole AHLAND and glass sculptures by HIROHATA Masami  
Duration: August until the end of October 2021

**“theory of everything”**

Pictures and installations by YAMAMOTO Noriko and Kornelia HOFFMANN  
Duration: November 2021 until January 2022

**CONCERT****“AUTUMN SONG” Concert with Members of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie**

C: Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Frankfurt a.M.; Werner Reimers Foundation, Bad Homburg  
Date: 9 June 2021

**Ensemble Horizonte “Dialogs on Nature”**

Contemporary Compositions from Germany and Japan  
Date: 2 September 2021

**String Quartet and Harp**

Verus String Quartet (Tōkyō) meets Marie-Pierre LANGLAMET (Harp, Berlin Philharmonics)  
Date: 21 September 2021

**Concert with contemporary compositions:**

INOUE Satoko (piano), Maurizio BARBETTI (viola) and Hartmut SCHULZ (vocal/bariton)  
Date: 22 October 2021

**WORKSHOP TALK****„Contemporary Music“ Ensemble Horizonte and the composer ITO Miyuki**

Date: 4 May 2021, 6 pm

**JAPANESE COURSES**

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, all courses will be held online until further notice.

**CALLIGRAPHY COURSES**

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, all calligraphy courses are suspended until further notice  
Please check our website (<https://jdz.de>).

**EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

- Junior Experts Exchange Program
- German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum
- Youth Group Leaders Exchange Program
- Study Program for Youth Work Specialists
- Exchange Program for Young Employees
- JDZB SCIENCEYOUTH PROGRAM

For details of the programs, please refer to: <https://jdz.de> --> Exchange Programs

**Opening hours of exhibitions**

Monday to Thursday 10 am to 0.30 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm, Friday 10 am to 0.30 pm and 1 pm to 3.30 pm

**Registration for the cultural events** opens close to the date

**C: = in cooperation with**

Venue: JDZB, if not stated otherwise

For **more information** please refer to: <https://jdz.de> --> Events

For **information on JDZB language courses** please refer to: <http://jdz.de>--> Japanese Courses

Based on the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, this is only a preliminary plan of JDZB programs as reflected from March 2021.

Please confirm the dates and format for each event on the JDZB homepage!



### VSJF Annual Conference 2021: Continuity and Change 10 Years after 3.11

On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and the subsequent catastrophe at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in 2011, the VSJF Annual Conference 2021 focuses on the long-term effects of the triple disaster on Japanese politics and society.

The one-day online conference offers three panels, which are devoted to change and continuity in energy policy (1), life in the Tōhoku areas hit hardest by the triple disaster (2), and interactions between civil society and the state (3).

How has Japan's energy policy changed since nuclear power became associated with images of deserted regions, exploding nuclear reactors, and leaking radiation? Panel (1) 'Change and Continuity in Energy Policy' will focus on these questions and discuss the policy field affected more than any other by the triple disaster.

Panel (2) 'Tōhoku – Life between Nuclear Radiation and Reconstruction' turns to the societal and political responses to 3.11 in the region hit hardest by the triple disaster. Panel (3) 'Civil Society and the State after 3.11' discusses change in the socio-political landscape in which Japan's nuclear energy policy is situated.

Photos right from:

Julia GERSTER and Anna NIEMANN



The temporary library of Shichigahama (Miyagi Prefecture) was one of five projects supported by donations from the JDZB following the triple disaster of March 2011. The other projects were:

A workshop of the National Institution for Youth Education (NIYE),

The Miyagi Prefecture Agricultural Secondary School,

Musical instruments for three middle schools in Sōma (Fukushima Prefecture),

A holiday in Germany for young people from Iitama (through the Japanese-German Society in Fukushima).