

160 Years German-Japanese Friendship

Miguel BERGER, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

As State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, and member of the JDZB Board of Executives, I am very happy to see Germany and Japan celebrating 160 years of diplomatic relations. Our two countries first entered their long-lasting bond when Prussia and Japan signed a friendship, trade, and shipping agreement on 24 January 1862. In a first exchange, the Japanese “Takenouchi Mission” visited Berlin in 1962, and people watched in awe as the delegates paraded the streets of their city donning traditional Japanese clothing and samurai swords.

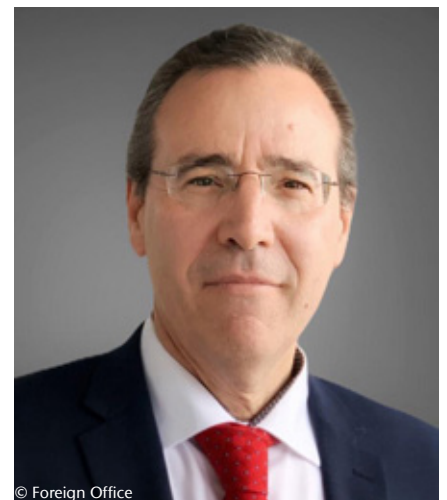
In the meantime, the initial sense of exoticism when regarding each other has given way to close, intense, and trusting relations, as we look back on a 160 year-tradition of cooperation and exchange in the areas of politics, economy, science, arts and culture, medicine, and philosophy. In spite of their geographic distance – 8,000 kilometers lie between Tōkyō and Berlin – Germany and Japan have a lot in common, giving their relations a firm footing. After the destruction and devastation of WWII, Japan and Germany have moved on to become stable democracies, and advanced industrial nations. Both strive for a world based on democratic values and free, rule-based economic exchange, a world in which peoples can live together in peace, relying on functioning multilateral structures, above all, the United Nations.

The lively exchange between our

countries is not limited to their governments: In around 100 German-Japanese and Japanese-German societies, citizens regularly gather to discuss the challenges our countries are facing today. There are 56 town twinning schemes bringing together people from Frankfurt and Yokohama, Lübeck and Kawasaki, Cologne and Kyōto. In 1,600 university cooperation projects, German and Japanese students can gain insights into each other’s country and university system.

A stable long-term relationship between two countries may sometimes resemble a marriage right before its golden wedding anniversary. Like a good marriage, it requires dedication and fresh impulses to preserve its value over time. The similar challenges our countries are facing as globalization advances make this dedication all the more important. One aspect I am especially concerned about in this context is the need for reforms brought about by low birth rates and ageing societies. Driving forward digitization, cyber security, climate and environmental protection, and sustainable energy policies, while maintaining high standards of living is another area in which the third- and fourth-largest world economies can learn a lot from each other. In this context, the “Green Alliance” adopted by EU representatives and Prime Minister SUGA at the EU-Japan Summit on 27 May is a step in the right direction.

Last but not least, both our countries



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are struggling to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. What can we learn from each other after a year-long fight? How can we prepare our young for the future in spite of the pandemic?

Internationally speaking – in the Indo-Pacific, and right here in Europe – we are facing major challenges in terms of security policy. With rivalries growing stronger, international rules and

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standards have increasingly come under pressure. As the power of the law clashes ever more fiercely with the laws of power, unilateral and protectionist tendencies are growing stronger. How can we successfully promote a rule-based world order under such difficult conditions?

In September 2020, the German government adopted guidelines aimed at strengthening relations with its partners in the Indo-Pacific and finding new ways to cooperate with them, because tomorrow's world order largely depends on the imminent developments in this region. Are we facing the formation of new blocks? Will the region remain open to everybody? What government models will prevail? Democracy or authoritarianism, rule of law or government despotism? Germany is working towards a rule-based, inclusive Indo-Pacific it considers the best possible protection against hegemonial tendencies and the formation of new blocks.

In the face of these challenges, it is vital to intensify our dialogue with countries that share our values, above all, with Japan. In terms of security policy, we want to take a more active stance in the region. Our countries' ministers of defense and foreign affairs, Foreign Minister Heiko MAAS and his Japanese counterpart MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister of Defence Annegret KRAMP-KARRENBAUER and her Japanese counterpart KISHI Nobuo, met last April to discuss these issues. In the summer, a German Navy frigate will be dispatched to the Indo-Pacific for six months aimed at monitoring North Korea and promoting rule-based order with a special focus on nuclear non-proliferation. In spite of, and because of, the Covid-19 pandemic that has dominated our lives over the past months, it is more important than ever to keep sustaining and nurturing our exchange on all levels. Having become a central site of Ger-

man-Japanese exchange and cooperation, the JDZB plays a major role in this context. Since its founding in 1985 at the initiative of then chancellor Helmut KOHL and Prime Minister NAKASONE Yasuhiro, the JDZB has added a new level of depth to German-Japanese cooperation in science, politics, economics and culture and given it a new, outstanding intellectual dimension. This year's Japanese-German Forum at the end of May centered on issues including a fresh start for diplomatic relations with the US, German and Japanese strategies in the Indo-Pacific, as well as lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, showing how the JDZB does not limit its range of topics to bilateral issues but puts German-Japanese relations in a global context. In this way, with its numerous events – in Berlin, Tōkyō, or online – the JDZB continues to keep people in Germany and Japan talking to each other, discussing the pressing issues of our time.

In the JDZB's 36th year, the JDZB is making a fresh start as a significant site representing German-Japanese exchange, and facilitating encounters between the two countries' people. This includes a new website, new business models and partnerships, and conceptual and organizational plans for a "JDZB of the Future", to name but a few. I wish the JDZB's Secretary General Dr. Julia MÜNCH and all its employees good spirits and a successful outcome for the renewal process and would like to thank all of you for your relentless efforts. It is thanks to its highly motivated employees from Japan and Germany that, in spite of all the changes the world has seen over the past three decades, the JDZB has been able to maintain its reputation as a point of contact for any questions concerning German-Japanese relations. I wish the JDZB all the best and hope you can continue to support and shape German-Japanese relations in the future!

Dear Readers!

In this issue of *jdzb echo*, we are pleased to present an editorial by State Secretary Miguel BERGER from the German Federal Foreign Office. In his article, he discusses current foreign and security policy challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. In order to actively shape our future world order, as partners with shared values he considers cooperation and an intensification of dialogue between us as essential. Japan's Prime Minister SUGA and German Chancellor MERKEL also reaffirmed the importance of the Indo-Pacific region for our two countries during their brief conversation on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. With regard to the pandemic, a light is now appearing on the horizon for both Japan and Germany as opportunities for vaccination and testing progress. We remain very cautious, but we are very pleased to tentatively reopen the JDZB in a hybridized format. It was a very special feeling when, after a long time, music once again sounded in our house at our "Herbstlied" (autumn song) concert. The event was streamed live, and can still be viewed on our YouTube channel. Our German-Japanese Forum also took place for the first time in a digital-analog mixed format. We are currently learning lots! We wish you all a great summer. Please stay healthy!

Dr. Julia MÜNCH
JDZB Secretary General

jdzb echo

Published quarterly in March – June – Sept. – Dec.

Publisher:
Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB)
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Opinions expressed reflect the author's opinion and not necessarily the opinion of the publisher.

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On 29 September 2021, the JDZB will host a virtual symposium on the overarching theme of “The Future of Democracy”. This event, held in cooperation with Seinan Gakuin University (Fukuoka), the University of Duisburg-Essen and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Berlin), is the first in a planned series of discussions on the future of democracy and related issues from a political science perspective. To kick off the series, below is an interview with Prof. Axel KLEIN, who holds a professorship in Japanese politics at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

The symposium planned will take place in the run-up to the upcoming federal elections in Germany in September and potential parliamentary elections in Japan: What do you expect for the party landscape in both democracies?

Voters in both countries will have the option to choose between six parties represented in parliament in autumn, but that’s probably where the similarities end. In Germany, the question is who will politically lead the Federal Republic after 16 years of MERKEL’s chancellorship. Since “The Greens” now also have hopes for the highest office in government, there are three leading candidates, BAERBOCK, LASCHET (CDU/CSU) und SCHOLZ (SPD), between whom the voters must decide. According to opinion polls, various coalition governments are possible, so it will be exciting. It’s a different story in Japan, where Prime Minister SUGA is currently going through an opinion poll slump, but the opposition would have to achieve considerable mobilization success among those voters who stayed home in past elections to prevent a victory for the LDP/Kōmeitō coalition. Perhaps the Japanese government’s pandemic management is a suitable mobilization theme, perhaps the Olympic and Paralympic Games, perhaps the government’s plans for constitutional reform. Either way, it would be desirable for Japanese democracy to see a resurgence in voter turnout from the most recent (2017) 53.7%.

Political scientist Karl-Rudolf KORTE recently published a book with two other authors titled “Coronacracy – Democratic Governance in Times of Exception,” which attempts to answer the questions “What is the pandemic doing to our political system? How resilient has political management shown itself to be since March 2020, and what consequences can we expect for democracy?” What are your thoughts regarding Germany and Japan?

Prof. KORTE is a colleague here at the University of Duisburg-Essen, and his co-editors have, among other things, raised the question of the necessary trade-off between health and freedom. Freedom is guaranteed in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic, health is not, at least not explicitly. How do governments deal with this situation? How strongly do people demand individual freedom even in the face of health risks? How far do they show a willingness to cooperate? An attitude that makes possible what KORTE calls “curated governance.” I think these questions are important not only from a political science or democratic theory perspective. When I compare the populations in both countries with regard to the demands for individual freedom, on the basis of my own experience it seems to me that people in Japan are more willing to temporarily give up small components of individual freedom in favor of health risk minimization and solidarity-based protection of fellow human beings. This impression is confirmed by the fact that in Japan there are apparently fewer “Corona deniers” or “lateral thinkers” and hardly anyone thinks a “mask obligation” is an infringement on their personal rights. However, I eagerly await the studies that ask how much the populations of both countries actually associated everyday pandemic-related restrictions with their fundamental rights. Perhaps we will soon learn that most people were merely inconvenienced and reluctant to forgo certain pleasures, but simply accepted the restrictions out of consideration for others and did not directly associate them with the “big gun” of fundamental rights.

In your research, you strongly focus on populism in East Asian democracies. How do you describe the role of populist elements in the German and Japanese political landscapes – be it populist politicians or a populist “extra-parliamentary opposition”?



In my view, the term “populism” is predominantly used in both countries for political actors who would be better placed in other categories. In Germany, the AfD is often described as populist, but what is meant is often “right-wing (extreme),” anti-immigration and anti-foreigner. The party does not have a dominant, charismatic leader, as called for in various concepts of populism, and does not fit the ideal type of a populist movement for other reasons. The Linke Party also has populist traits, but they are rarely addressed as such in the mass media, perhaps because they are always presented together with demands for “social justice” – whatever that means in concrete terms.

The Japanese term *taishū geigō shugi*, which translates as “populism,” means being pleasing/opportunistic to the masses. Just as the accusation of being a dictator and the comparison to HITLER is pulled out every now and then in political disputes (against the previous prime minister ABE, among others), sometimes the “fighting term” (Max WEBER) “populist” is thrown at the head of the political rival when tax cuts, higher child benefits, minimum income for farmers, abolition of highway tolls or the like are proposed. Sometimes an extraordinary kind of political communication or “presentation” (performance) is enough to be portrayed as populist. The original populist call for the masses to fight against the corrupt elites, however, is only found in a very diluted form when the dominant LDP or the ministerial bureaucracy are criticized.

Symposium “25 years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration, five years after the adoption of Agenda 2030: Progress in Gender Equality Policy in Japan and Germany” 4-5 March 2021

Susanne AUERBACH, M. A., Freie Universität Berlin

After JDZB Secretary General Dr. Julia MÜNCH's opening words, Franziska GIFFEY (Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth) gave the first keynote speech, outlining the significance of gender equality for Germany's modern society, while adding that past successes had not been achieved without effort and, oftentimes, in the face of resistance.

In the second keynote, HAYASHI Tomoko (Director General of the Gender Equality Bureau in the Japanese Cabinet Office) pointed out that in December 2020, the Japanese government had published a new basic plan for gender equality aimed at eliminating different treatment of men and women by the 2030s.

The keynote part was wrapped up by ISHIKAWA Kae (Director of the UN Women Japan Liaison Office in Tōkyō). 2020, she said, had been an important year for gender equality, but so far, not a single country in the world had achieved gender parity. ISHIKAWA expressed hope that Japan and Germany would continue actively fighting for women's rights.

The first part of the conference, hosted by Dr. Phoebe Stella HOLDGRÜN (Head of Project Management at JDZB) was dedicated to political and economic aspects. Prof. Dr. ETŌ Mikiko (Professor for Political Science at Hōsei-University Tōkyō) gave an overview of the state of gender equality in the Japanese Parliament, mentioning a positive trend since the introduction of “Womenomics” in 2013.

In the second speech, Dr. Ina BIEBER (Research Assistant at GESIS – Leibniz Institute of Social Sciences in Mannheim) said that, historically speaking, Germany had constantly made progress since 1919, the year women in Germany first got voting rights, up to the election of the country's first woman chancellor Angela MERKEL. On the other hand, she deplored that women in politics continued to face discrimination, not only by parties, but also by voters who still had less faith in female than in male representatives.

In the next speech, Prof. ŌSAKI Asako (Director of the Gender Action Platform GAP

and Visiting Professor at Kwansai Gakuin University) discussed aspects of gender equality in the Japanese working world. While, at first sight, some of the measures adopted in this field seemed progressive, she criticized that they were not actually aimed at gender equality but at integrating women in the labor market. Gender equality could only be achieved, she said, if society's understanding of men's and women's roles fundamentally changed. In the speech concluding the first part of the event, Dr. Katharina WROHLICH (Head of the Research Group “Gender Economics” at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin) described the current situation of the German labor market saying Germany's situation was comparable to Japan's: While, overall, women's employment rate had increased, the increase was limited mostly to part time work.

The final discussion centered on other reasons why fewer women than men held leadership positions. Reasons stated included women lacking networks and self-esteem. It was concluded that both countries should start promoting women earlier on in their careers, and both societies had to rethink their approach to gender roles as a whole.

The second day of the conference addressed Japan's and Germany's international fight for gender equality, and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on gender issues.

In her role as first German woman ambassador to Japan, Ina LEPEL said she was often asked about the differences between Germany's and Japan's approach to gender equality. While legal provisions, better protection from unequal pay, and progress in political participation were good results, LEPEL warned that Germany was still ranked only 10th on the Global Gender Gap Report and should not rest on its laurels. The next two keynotes discussing the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on gender equality were held by Prof. Dr. SHIRAHASE Sawako (Professor for Sociology at the Graduate School of Humanities and

Sociology and Vice President at Tōkyō University) and Prof. Dr. Ute KLAMMER (Professor and Executive Director at the Institute of Work and Qualifications IAQ, University of Duisburg-Essen). SHIRAHASE stressed that the pandemic's negative effects on women's rights were a global phenomenon, and action was urgently needed.

KLAMMER described a similar situation in Germany, saying that stereotypical gender perception was still rampant, and the image of men as breadwinners still prevalent in German society. On the plus side, she said, the pandemic had finally drawn public attention to the importance of typical female professions like care workers and shop assistants.

Part two was hosted by SATŌ Mariko (Director of the United Nations Population Fund UNFPA's Tōkyō Office) and centered on Japan and Germany's international involvement in the fight for gender equality. In her speech, UCHIKAWA Tomomi (Head of the Office for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction at the Japan International Cooperation Agency JICA), presented JICA's work in the area of gender equality.

In the final speech of the conference, Dr. Angela LANGENKAMP (Gender Commissioner of the German Society for International Cooperation GIZ) presented GIZ's work and gender equality strategies. Like JICA, she explained, GIZ was a service provider implementing projects in cooperation with local partners.

In the second panel discussion, UCHIKAWA and LANGENKAMP agreed that, to achieve gender equality, the involvement of men was also important, and that raising awareness early was crucial to achieving a breakthrough for society as a whole.

The conference was closed by Prof. Dr. h. c. MAE Michiko (Cultural Scientist, Gender Researcher, and Retired Professor at Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf). On both days, the symposium introduced milestones on the road to gender equality in Japan and Germany and pointed out necessary steps for the future. Around 170 participants from Japan and Germany bore witness to the fact that the subject of gender equality is still highly relevant to both countries.

“A picture is worth a thousand words” ... and far more impressive than a video conference. But digital formats open up new opportunities!

Dr. Julia MÜNCH, JDZB Secretary General

One of the most important goals of the JDZB is to inspire (future) decision-makers from Japan and Germany to become excited about the other country. What could be better suited for this than traveling to the other country, experiencing the culture with all your senses, conversations with peers as well as intergenerational encounters on location?

The JDZB offers various programs for young professionals and trainees, young volunteers and professionals from the child and youth welfare sector (funded by the Federal Child and Youth Plan and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). As part of the Junior Experts Exchange Program, young scientists from Japan and Germany learn more about each other's research fields (funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Japanese Foreign Ministry). In the privately funded German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum we support future leaders (current sponsors: Daido Life Insurance Company, Mori Manufacturing Research and Technology Foundation, Yamaoka Memorial Foundation, YANMAR HOLDINGS CO., LTD., Yuasa M&B Co., Ltd.). In addition, the SCIENCEYOUTH PROGRAM serves to initiate sustainable exchanges between Japanese and German high schools (sponsored by OLYMPUS Europa SE & Co. KG).



Paths to Germany - Paths to Japan

Initial and continuing encounters between young people from Japan and Germany are also facilitated and initiated at many other levels, for example, through government-funded exchange programs (e.g. the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program JET and the MIRAI program of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specialized programs organized by IJAB – Fachstelle für internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, organized specialized programs), home stays abroad arranged by not-for-profit youth exchange organizations (such as AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e. V. or Deutsches Youth For Understanding Komitee e.V.), voluntary services (e.g. through ijgd), youth hostel

exchanges and internship programs (such as DAAD's "Language and Practice in Japan", the "Vulcanus" program for young Europeans or individually organized internships, e.g. through KOPRA – International Internship Platform).

Intensive exchanges also take place in the fields of music, culture or sports (e.g. through the Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung (BKJ) or the professional and simultaneous exchanges of the Deutsche Sportjugend). Encounters between young people from Japan and Germany also take place within the framework of numerous city, school and university partnerships and through the more than one hundred Japanese-German and German-Japanese societies.

Through the Foundation of the Federation of German-Japanese Societies, established in 2018, funds are explicitly available for youth exchange activities. In addition to the numerous regionally anchored projects, there is even a supra-regionally active German-Japanese Youth Association on the German side (DJJG) and, on the Japanese side, the Japanese-German Youth Network with its "Hello" program, among others.

The Studienwerk für Deutsch-Japanischen Kulturaustausch in North Rhine-Westphalia organizes an annual four-week scholarship program in cooperation with the Düsseldorf-

Japan Study Fund. Now, in the current COVID pandemic, alumni have planned an online event "Experience Japan Digitally," in which visions for "Urban Life 2.0" will be developed in various interactive breakout sessions.

The Embassy of Japan offers a good overview of exchange, research and education programs of non-commercial institutions as well as scholarships on its website (www.de.emb-japan.go.jp/austausch/); another source of information on the German side is the country page Japan of IJAB (ijab.de/japan) and "rausvonzuhaus" (let's leave home) (by eurodesk) or the Japan fair "#Seitenwechsler – wir bringen dich nach Japan!" (Change sides – we'll take you to Japan). The DJJG regularly presents various exchange organizations here.

International encounters in the digital space

Unfortunately, many of the usual programs could not take place last year and this year due to the pandemic. But how do you maintain international exchange when you can't travel? There is certainly no substitute for international experience in person in the other country. On the positive side, however, the current state of technology has opened up good opportunities to overcome geographical distance in an uncomplicated way, at least digitally, through online video conferences and communication platforms and networks in social media.

Like many other organizations, we have therefore taken advantage of the situation to move international meetings into the virtual space and to maintain existing networks through low-threshold, continuous exchange. For example, our colleagues in the Youth Exchange department set up online regular catch-up sessions for alumni during the pandemic, and were surprised at how well it worked. Using digital exchange formats, we also succeeded in efficiently maintaining the professional collaboration of the German-Japanese Study Program for Child and Youth Welfare Professionals, which this year looks back on a fifty-year history.

The virtual "kick-off" for the 15th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum was not intended as a replacement for the summer school originally planned for Berlin and Potsdam, but it was an interesting alternative and a good prelude to the originally planned program. The Alumni Association of the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum is also creating new points of interaction with a new virtual event series. The talks will take place regularly about once a quarter and highlight relevant topics, initially around sustainability, from the perspective of Japan and Germany. The aim of the series is to create more exchanges for the association's members in a relaxed atmosphere in addition to the regular annual alumni conferences, especially during the current COVID pandemic, and also beyond.

Shaping the future together

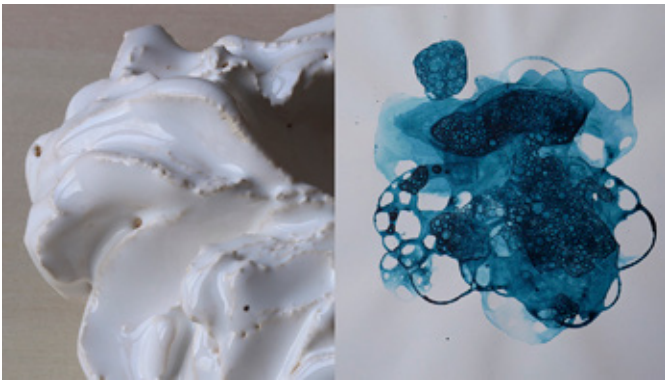
It would be highly desirable if, even after the pandemic, we increased the benefits of digitization by all of us joining forces even more strongly to create awareness for the numerous existing offerings. It's true that in Japan, as in Germany, there is interest in the other country among the younger generation – but the potential is greater! Let's shape the future together by showing young people the opportunities of Japanese-German cooperation and thus widening their perspectives.



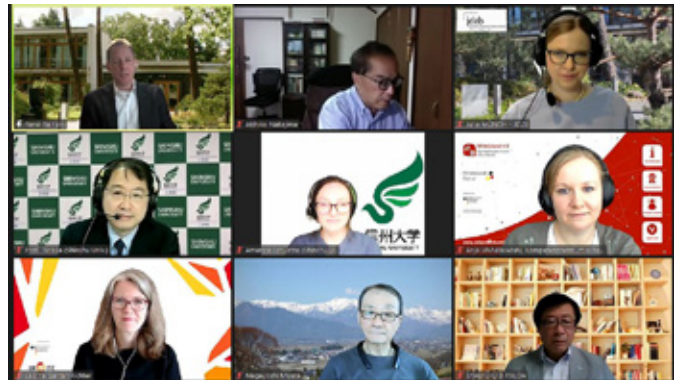
What strategies are Japan and Germany pursuing in the Indo-Pacific? How are our relations with the U.S. evolving? What are the new approaches to national issues, and what lessons can we learn from the Covid-19 pandemic? This week, leading figures from business, politics, academia and the media engaged in lively discussions on these topics, and led to concrete recommendations for the governments of both countries.

For the first time this year, the German-Japanese Forum took place in a hybrid virtual form with its 29th meeting held on 20 and 21 May. German Federal Chancellor MERKEL welcomed the participants, not in person in the Federal Chancellery in Berlin as is usual at the regular meeting, but by video message due to the pandemic.

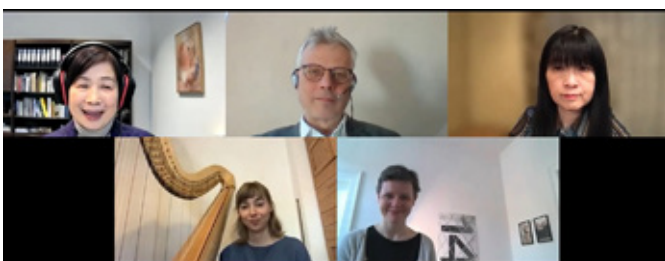
Matthias NAß (DIE ZEIT) and KOBAYASHI Eizō (Itōchū Corporation) chaired the meeting. While the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) in Tōkyō acts as the Japanese secretariat, in Germany the JDZB is entrusted with this task.



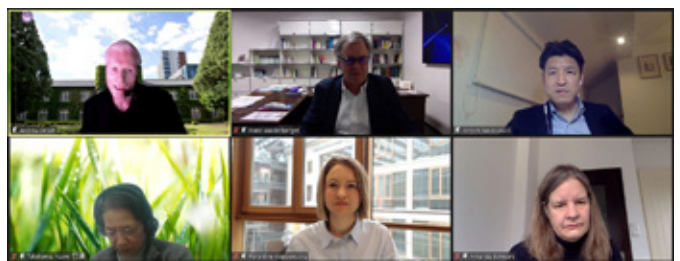
Virtual opening of the exhibition “After the rain falls the ground hardens” with ceramic sculptures, drawings and video installations by AKIMOTO Naomi und Claudia Schmacke on 28 May. The exhibition will be on display at the JDZB until 28 July. Admission is free, but subject to pandemic-related restrictions. (Photo © AKIMOTO/SCHMACKE)



The virtual networking event “Boosting Transcontinental SME Collaboration between Germany and Japan” was held on 25 May. Organized by the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology FIT together with Lyogroup International at the virtual JDZB, the event seeks to shape digital transformation and foster international exchange.



Workshop talk “Contemporary Music” on 4 May. Guests were Jörg-Peter MITTMANN (founder of the ensemble Horizonte), the composer ITŌ Miyuki, who joined from Japan, and two musicians of the ensemble, Maria PACHE (viola) and Helene SCHÜTZ (harp), who played selected examples of works.



VSJF Annual Meeting 2021 “Continuity and Change 10 Years after 3.11” held on 19 March. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and the subsequent nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in 2011, the long-term impact of the triple disaster on Japanese politics and society was highlighted.

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: 22-23 June 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

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

10th Meeting of the German-Japanese Expert Council on Energy Transition
 C: Henniecke 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

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/November 2021

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

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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; Waseda University, Tōkyō; German Center for Research and Innovation (DWHI), Tōkyō; The German Federal Bar, Berlin
 Date: 19 November 2021, in Tōkyō

STATE, ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE

Symposium: Coping with the Crisis. Psychosocial Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic
 C: German Center for Research and Innovation (DWHI), Tōkyō
 Date: 10 June 2021, in Tōkyō

Panel Discussion: Recovery Games under the Mask. The Tōkyō Olympics through the Lens of Japan Scholars
 C: German Institute for Japanese Studies (Tōkyō)
 Date: 17 June 2021

Symposium: The Future of Democracy I:
 C: Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka; Duisburg-Essen University; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Berlin)
 Date: 29 September 2021

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

CULTURAL EVENTS

EXHIBITION

“After the rain falls the ground hardens”
 Ceramic Sculptures, Drawings and Video Installations by AKIMOTO Naomi and Claudia SCHMACKE
 Duration: 31 May until 28 July 2021

“Good Morning My Moon”
 Photographs by Nicole AHLAND and glass sculptures by HIROHATA Masami
 Duration: 28 August until 26 November 2021

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

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

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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
 Mon - Thursday 10 am - 0.30 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm, Fri 10 am - 0.30 pm and 1 pm to 3.30 pm
Free admittance, but subject to retrictions due to the pandemic

C: = in cooperation with
 Venue: JDZB, if not stated otherwise (also digital)
 For **more information** please refer to: <https://jdz.de>

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Based on the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, this is only a preliminary plan of JDZB programs as reflected from June 2021.
Please confirm the dates and format for each event on the JDZB homepage!



For 34 days running the world's gaze is steadily fixed on the host city of the Olympic and Paralympic Games – that's how long the Games last on average. However, building and preparing the infrastructure for the games takes many years. During this time, they significantly change the cityscape, politics, society, economy and public discourse of the Olympic city.

The organizers of the 2020(+1) Olympics in Tōkyō originally marketed the Games as the “Recovery Games” to symbolize reconstruction after the Triple Disaster of 11 March 2011. In the wake of the ongoing pandemic, the Olympics are now expected to become a symbol of “recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic” or at least “give hope to the world.”

The JDZB, in cooperation with the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tōkyō, will host a virtual panel discussion on social, political, economic and historical aspects of the Games on June 17. As an introduction, the panel speakers will provide brief opening statements: Sonja GANSEFORTH on the anti-Olympics protests, Barbara HOLTHUS on Olympic volunteers, Axel KLEIN on the Olympics in Japanese politics, Wolfram MANZENREITER on the relationship of the mass media and Tōkyō 2020, and Torsten WEBER on the memory of Tōkyō 1940 and 1964. The speakers are authors of the recently published book “Japan through the Lens of the Tokyo Olympics” (Routledge 2020, open access), edited by Barbara HOLTHUS, Isaac GAGNÉ, Wolfram MANZENREITER and Franz WALDENBERGER.



Photos (clockwise from top left):
 Japanese daily newspapers celebrating the awarding of the Games to Tōkyō in September 2013 (© Antje BIEBERSTEIN)
 Book Cover *Japan through the Lens of the Tokyo Olympics* (Routledge 2020)
 Olympic volunteer Barbara HOLTHUS in official volunteer attire
 Anti-Olympics demonstrator holding “Liar Olympics” placard
 Flag celebrating the awarding of the 1940 Olympics to Tōkyō (© Torsten WEBER)
 (remaining photos © Barbara HOLTHUS)

