



Participants

In the past, participants have included prospective leaders from Airbus Japan K.K., The Asahi Shimbun Company, Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA), Bank of Japan (BOJ), Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Commerzbank AG, Daido Life Insurance Company, Daimler AG, Deloitte GmbH, Dentsu Inc., Deutsche Welle (DW), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), German Federal Employment Agency, German Federal Foreign Office (AA), German Red Cross (GRC) e.V., Hitachi Ltd., HORIBA, Ltd., The Japan Foundation, Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Jiji Press, Merck KGaA, Mitsubishi Research Institute, MITSUI & Co., Ltd., Munich Security Conference (msc), Panasonic Corporation, RIKEN, Siemens AG, Sumitomo Deutschland GmbH, TÜV Rheinland InterTraffic GmbH, DIE ZEIT and various other institutions, companies and top universities.

Contact

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»I had a brilliant and unique experience by participating in the forum because the discussions with participants from diverse backgrounds helped explore solutions to global challenges from interdisciplinary perspectives.«

MARUYAMA MEI, Participant 2019
 United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

»I gained great insight into German-Japanese relations, thanks to the outstanding speakers and excursions, and I found the stimulating discussions on current topics with participants from different backgrounds very enriching.«

Jenny LEHMANN, Participant 2019
 The Governing Mayor of Berlin - Senate Chancellery

»At this forum, I met young leaders from various backgrounds who truly combine vision, passion and professionalism in a modern society which is becoming increasingly diverse and complex and in which uncertainties grow. I enjoyed discussing with them and we became friends for life.«

Dr. SEKINE Masaki, Participant 2019
 BASF Japan Ltd.

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German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum





»The German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum allowed me a first-hand insight into Japanese perspectives on pressing regional and global issues. By bringing strong personal and authentic values to the forum, we were able to enlighten our minds through highly enriching discussions and learnt about creative and meaningful ways for future collaborations on a global scale.«

Dr. Sinan AKDENIZ, Participant 2019
Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

the academic world. Applicants should be between 25 to 35 years old. Fluency in English is required.

Funding

In 2023, the program is funded by Daido Life Insurance Company, the Mori Manufacturing Research and Technology Foundation, the Yamaoka Memorial Foundation, YANMAR HOLDINGS CO., LTD., Yuasa M&B Co., Ltd., and supported by other institutions. This covers all basic expenditure, such as costs for travel, accommodation, meals, transport, etc.

Coordination

The Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), a non-profit foundation supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as well as the City State of Berlin, was established in 1985 to promote and deepen Japanese-German and international cooperation in the fields of science and culture. It serves as the coordinating institution for organizing the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum.

Alumni Association

In 2011, alumni of the program established an alumni association to further foster the development of sustainable networks between Germany and Japan and to actively contribute to the Young Leaders Program.

For more than 160 years, Japan and Germany have shared a close friendship. The Young Leaders Forum offers young visionaries the opportunity to strengthen these bonds even further to prepare the two nations for the challenges of tomorrow. The diversity and individuality of each participant create synergies and new, exciting ideas, and more often than not, result in friendships that last a lifetime.



Dr. Clemens von GOETZE
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan

I believe that this program is especially meaningful because it brings together a diverse range of people from various industries and fields to learn together and deepen mutual understanding. Relations between Japan and Germany are progressing not only in the fields of politics and business, but also in exchanges in academia, culture, science and technology, and between civil societies. There is now a greater opportunity to deepen mutual understanding in a wide range of fields and to enhance the ties between our two countries in order to shape bilateral relations for the future. I hope that the participants will learn a great deal from this program and they will contribute to deepening and strengthening the relationship between Germany and Japan.



YANAGI Hidenao, Ambassador of Japan to the
Federal Republic of Germany

Program Goals

Since 2006, the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum intends to inspire the next generation of future leaders to contribute to the relations between Germany and Japan. Young prospective leaders from various professions are invited to address politically and socially relevant issues during the forum and to deepen mutual understanding by working together. The program aims at establishing sustainable networks that will both strengthen and further vitalize the future cooperation between both countries.

Program Outline

The annual program is held alternately in Germany or Japan and consists of a summer school and an alumni conference. Every year, the forum takes up a different specific topic which is of importance for Germany and Japan alike. The program offers a variety of opportunities for learning, networking, and exchange by organizing expert lectures, working groups, visits to institutions, and encounters with alumni.

Target Group

Each year, 16 promising young professionals – eight German and eight Japanese – are carefully selected. Intentionally, the professional backgrounds in each group are as diverse as they can be, ranging from business, politics, administration, and the media to