

For a Further Deepening of Japan-Germany Relations

NAKANE Takeshi, Ambassador of Japan to the Federal Republic of Germany

I arrived in Germany this year on March 1 and presented my credentials to the Office of the Federal President on March 9. Already the months have flown past since I assumed my duties as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. My diplomatic career started here in Berlin; and I have worked both in Bonn and Munich among other cities. It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to return to Berlin as Ambassador and I will dedicate all of my efforts to my new duties.

The massive earth tremor that hit eastern Japan in March last year caused not only a violent earthquake but also a tsunami and a nuclear accident creating a manifold catastrophe of an unprecedented scale. Shortly after the earthquake, the then German Federal President WULFF and Chancellor MERKEL as well as several

other leading figures visited the residence of the Japanese Ambassador to extend their sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families. Foreign Minister WESTERWELLE travelled to Japan to express his deepest sympathy to the people there. Charity concerts and other events were staged throughout Germany, and many citizens and organizations gathered donations. Furthermore, the German Federal Government and German companies generously donated their assistance. In total approximately 60 million Euros were collected. In Japan we also have the saying "a friend in need is a friend indeed." This truly applies to the great sympathy shown by the people in Germany and I still feel deeply grateful for this, not only as the Japanese Ambassador to Germany but as a citizen of my country. With the support from around the world Japan has decisively tackled the challenge of reconstructing and reinvigorating the country, and already has made massive progress. The Fukushima nuclear power plant reactors are now in a state of cold shutdown, and the supply chain for manufacturing industries, which broke down directly after the quake and adversely affected the automobile industry, has been rapidly and completely restored. Even the infrastructure and the economy of the affected regions are now clearly on the road to recovery. Yet, as a result of the nuclear accident, the people living in the direct vicinity of the power plant are still not allowed to return home, and securing jobs in the affected regions continues to remain a huge task. Thus, it is necessary that the Japanese government continues to give absolute priority and strong support to reconstruction and recovery efforts.

Moreover, the other challenges that my country has been facing now for some time demand firm commitments. One of these challenges is the rapid aging of society. In 2015, the number of people aged 65 years and older will have passed the 30 million mark. There are predictions that by the year 2055, more than 40% of the population will be elderly. If the population is in fact going to age this quickly, it will mean that by 2055, for each old person there will only be 1.3 people of working age between 15 and 64. Japan's national debt is approximately 95% domestic, whereby this is in stark contrast to the situation of southern European countries. Nevertheless, Japan's debts are huge and more than twice as high as the country's GDP. In order to take control of this problem, Japan is striving to incrementally increase its consumption tax as well as comprehensively reform



CONTENT

For a Further Deepening of...	
NAKANE Takeshi	1–2
<i>Interview</i>	
Marijke WAHLERS	3
<i>Conference Report</i>	
China's Role in Asia	4
<i>Exchange Programs</i>	
Young Leaders Forum	5
<i>Preview of Events 2012</i>	7
<i>Last Page</i>	
The JDZB Library	8

the social security system including the pension system.

Medium and long-term energy policies are another important challenge. Before the huge earthquakes struck eastern Japan, around one third of Japan's electricity was generated through nuclear power. It's quite true that until the earthquake hit, there was a firm belief in my country that nuclear power was safe. Now this has proven not to be the case and Japan is faced with the huge task of evaluating what type of energy mix is desirable and feasible in the medium and long-term. There's a need to lead in-depth discussions on this topic that are free of emotion and shaped by sober evaluation. Discussions must take into account the various aspects – in particular the peace of mind and security of the population, but also the continuance of our economic activities, our engagement in dealing with green house gases and climate change, as well as the potential for renewable energy sources.

In the following, I would like to outline how we should shape relations between Japan and Germany in view of the challenges mentioned above currently facing my country. Firstly, there is the cooperation in the field of economics. Both of our countries have developed as strengths a talent for manufacturing goods (*Monozukuri*) as well as the ability to innovate technologies. Since the progress of the last round of Doha talks of the WTO reveals little reason for hope, we should create together a framework that would use the great vitality of the Asia-Pacific region for the benefit of the whole world. In view of this situation, Japan's close relations with Germany and the EU are of the utmost importance. Concurrently, it is important for my country for the Eurozone to overcome its current financial and debt crises. For this reason, Japan is actively contributing by purchasing bonds from the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), and before any other country it committed a financial contribution of 60 billion dollars to strengthen the International Monetary Fund (IMF). I am of the opinion that an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Japan and the EU presents a

great opportunity for medium to long-term stable economic development in Japan and Germany. This sort of agreement would not only have significant benefits for Japan and Germany themselves, but for Japan and EU collaborations in third countries as well, and as a joint initiative for both sides to establish regulations that are applicable worldwide. For this reason, I also attach great importance to such an agreement.

I would now like to consider Japan-Germany cooperation in politics. Japan and Germany's collaboration on the basis of the shared values of liberty, democracy and rule of law is not just limited to the bilateral level; rather it embraces cooperation in the international arena such as the G8 and beyond. Thus both our countries share similar fundamental positions and views with regard to disarmament and non-proliferation. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) that consists of an inter-regional group of ten countries is driven forward under the leadership of Japan and Germany. I previously held the positions of Ambassador of Japan's Permanent Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, as well as Director for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science within the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Based on the knowledge I acquired in these positions, I would like to work toward finding further opportunities for cooperation between both countries in this area.

To further deepen relations between Japan and Germany it is important we develop personal relations that are built on mutual trust at the heads of government level. I therefore find it regrettable that our last heads of government visit to each other's country was some time ago. I very much hope that such a visit will take place soon. On the other hand, I personally believe that reinvigorating exchange at the heads of government level – thus at the national level – is not possible without strengthening exchange at the citizens' level. Therefore I would especially like to support increasing the level of sport and youth exchange as well as developing relations at the town twinning level. I kindly ask for your valued support.

Dear Readers!

I started this position in April this year, it is my third stay in Germany. The past two times I worked for the Japanese Cultural Institute in Cologne and this is my first time working in Berlin. I have lived here for just a few months and already I can feel and experience the exuberance and liveliness of the many events held throughout the capital.

During these months I had the opportunity to visit many towns located in former East Germany. What struck me was our shared problem of decreasing populations, above all through the exodus of young people. It seems that these towns are dealing with the same sort of challenges faced by smaller municipalities in Japan. With a view to the political measures and activities that seek to deal with changing population dynamics, to the demands of regional economies in an economically globalized world, as well as the regeneration and development of regional communities, I realised how important an intensive exchange of experiences and knowledge in the most diverse areas between Japanese and German experts is for creating a better future.

As revealed in the article by Ambassador NAKANE Takeshi, there are many areas in which Japan and Germany, both committed to sustainable development, can deepen dialog and cooperation for the benefit of the wider world. The interview with Marijke WAHLERS and the report on the last alumni meeting of the Young Leaders Forum reveal how the Japanese-German Center Berlin and its activities significantly contribute to developing the next generation of both countries and the many clever people who will deal with issues that transcend international or national frameworks in the coming years.

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JDZB Deputy Secretary General

jdzb echo

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The JDZB and the German Universities Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz HRK) are organizing in cooperation with the University of Cologne a German-Japanese Symposium titled "The Internationalization of Universities in Japan and Germany – Institutional strategies and operative structures and processes" to be held on October 17 and 18, 2012.

Below is an interview with Marijke WAHLERS, head of the International Office of the HRK.

Following on from Tôkyô 2006 and Berlin 2010, this is the third joint conference on the development of universities in Japan and Germany. How has cooperation and exchange further developed over the past six years between German and Japanese universities?
In brief, the number and intensity of collaborative projects has steadily increased; similarly internationalization has also grown in importance in the two countries. There is still further potential to develop cooperation, particularly when you compare it with other countries of the region, for example China.

What was the influence of the three-fold catastrophe that occurred in Japan in March 2011?

I was very impressed by the numerous displays of solidarity and support shown by German universities. I'm sure that existing connections became even stronger after the events of March 11. At the same time there was great uncertainty with regard to the actual situation in Japan among students and academics who had not had previous contact with Japan. I am sure this led to a temporary decline in the number of exchange visits of students and academics.

Because research and education play a fundamental role for the competitive advantage of locations, only an international university can seek to actively shape the process of globalization. How are Germany and Japan driving forward the internationalization of their universities'?

There are interesting parallels with regard to internationalization, but differences naturally as well, particularly with regard to the mobility of students and academics. Overall the cooperation is becoming more strategic - ranging from individual contacts up to formal and structured cooperation within the framework of strategic partnerships, with joint recognition of tertiary qualifications and networks for research and PhD training. A positive signal is the opening of

representative offices of various Japanese universities in Germany. Many German universities have also opened offices around the world, although none in Japan yet.

How can universities develop sustainable internationalization strategies that concurrently effectively support the universities' operations and structures?

I was under the impression that in Japan strategies are developed from the top-down, from government ministries to the university executives down to the faculties. I look forward to hearing the reports by our Japanese colleagues at the symposium in October. In Germany the HRK is implementing a strongly supported project whereby international experts in internationalization strategies and measures are auditing individual universities and putting together recommendations for the further development of internationalization. Approximately 30 audits have now been completed and it's quite obvious that it's crucial to include all players in the internationalization process. This may sound simple, but in fact it's quite difficult to implement. In the end, internationalization means something very different to each academic, each faculty, university executive and each student. It's about bringing together the ideas and activities of the various players. Every university must be able to define for themselves what internationalization means and why it is important.

In the last year the HRK with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research coordinated the "Japan Weeks" across 18 German universities and vocational colleges. What was the idea behind this and which impulses have resulted internally and externally?

The reason was to commemorate 150 years of German-Japanese relations. With the Japan Weeks the HRK wanted to create an opportunity at as many universities as possible for students and academics to learn



more about potential cooperation with Japan. This ranged from current information available for students and academics through reports of successful cooperative projects to specialists' discussions with colleagues from Japanese partner universities. At the closing workshop all the participating universities expressed their satisfaction, above all because they were able to sign off on other concrete cooperation agreements. They regarded as important the exchange about internationalization structures in both university systems. All these topics will be dealt with further at the symposium in October.

What do you think are the most important tasks for future cooperation and exchange between German and Japanese universities?
On the one hand it is about increasing the mobility of students and researchers. This is where we should create a window of mobility in the form of either summer schools or short study sojourns in the partner country which are integrated back into the curriculum of the home university. On the other hand we should intensify research cooperation. Both countries are exceptionally strong in research and innovation and can make better use of their potential in joint research projects – for example, in the areas of demography or climate change. This is where the newly established Deutsche Wissenschafts- und Innovationshaus Tôkyô (German Research and Innovation Forum Tôkyô) will contribute to serving as a showcase for German research and innovation in Japan.

**Conference “China’s Role in Asia: Research Approaches in Germany and Japan”
Dr. Margot SCHÜLLER and Dr. Nele NOESSELT (German Association for Asian Studies
DGA / GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg)**

The German Association for Asian Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde DGA) and the Japanese Association for Asian Studies (JAAS) are similar associations made up of researchers working in various fields, e.g., areas of research, size, and their relationship to government. However, until now they have not had any contact with each other. The JDZB took up the initiative and suggested a joint symposium for both associations as well as a joint workshop about new approaches to Asian Studies in Germany and Japan.

On July 7, 2012, the international workshop “A Quest for Asian Studies in the 21st Century: New Approaches to East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia” was held at Rikkyō University in Tōkyō, which was co-organized by the German Association for Asian Studies (DGA) and the Japanese Association for Asian Studies (JAAS), and sponsored by the JDZB and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The Workshop, attended by representatives from both associations, sought to emphasize interregional exchange for the further development and professionalization of Asian Studies.

The workshop was followed by the conference “China’s Role in Asia: Research Approaches in Germany and Japan” held at the International House (Tōkyō) on July 8, 2012, and co-organized by the DGA, JAAS, JDZB und the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The goal of the conference was to bring together Asia-focused academics from both associations to discuss Asia-related research projects and results. Discussions were held over three sessions divided into themes of domestic political challenges for China, the position of the country in an integrating Asian region, and China’s foreign policy toward Asia. Following welcoming addresses given by President TAKASHIMA Yūshū (JDZB), President Prof. KANEKO Yoshiki (JAAS) and Deputy Chair of the DGA, Prof. Claudia DERICHS, the conference was opened with a presentation by Dr. Rolf MÜTZENICH, MP and Chair of the German-Japanese Parliamentary Group, and by Prof. KOKUBUN Ryosei, the President of the National Defense Academy of Japan. MÜTZENICH underlined the current relevance of the conference’s themes; China

must become involved in shaping global governance structures now more than ever. KOKUBUN spoke on the social discord in China and the concept of harmonious society as a government response. As a foreign policy concern KOKUBUN noted a growing distrust between the USA and China, and toward ASEAN member countries due to China’s maritime expansion strategies.

In the first session Prof. Akio TAKAHARA (Tōkyō University) argued how political leadership in China is deeply divided on central issues. TAKAHARA listed prevailing debates such as the existence of a Chinese model, unifying values, the continuation of political reforms and concessions for the development of a civil society. Prof. Sebastian HEILMANN (Trier University) spoke on the adoption of political responsibility in China and noted how an informal redesign of government “social management” is taking place and how new social media has significant influence on flows of information.

In the second session Dr. Margot SCHÜLLER (GIGA) argued that China has evolved from an observer of regional integration in Asia to a creator. While the ASEAN member countries appear to tolerate China’s leading role in shaping integration, SCHÜLLER sees great resistance to China as a regional leading power in the economic integration of Japan and South Korea. Prof. OHASHI Hideo (University of Senshū) provided a Japanese perspective on how China’s rise fits under the motto “from flying geese to leaping frog” describing an economic order in Asia

in the throes of change. At the same time, OHASHI pointed out how China’s economy has increasingly globalized and thus its relations to the region had changed.

In the third session dealing with China’s foreign policy toward Asia, FUJIWARA Kiichi (Tōkyō University) identified two analyses dealing with issues of power transitions and foreign policy security. According to FUJIWARA, China’s economic growth in power is more important than geopolitical strength. Dr. Nele NOESSELT (GIGA) then provided an overview of China’s policies in the Asian region and argued that the “China Threat” debate, which overwhelmingly shapes the US-China research, falls too short. She pointed out that China had shown itself as a very willing partner to cooperate and function as a mediator in the region.

In the closing discussions, the numerous and in part high-ranking Japanese audience reiterated the necessity to develop research projects dealing with China not only based on American analyses, but also encompassing European and Japanese perspectives. According to one comment, balancing relations and cooperation with China is of central importance, particularly for Japan, if only because of its regional proximity to China. Within this context, suggestions were put forward to hold workshops in similar formats and include not only Japanese and European speakers, but Chinese as well. However this was beyond the goals of this year’s meeting, which was a first attempt to allow the partner organizations of the DGA and JAAS to enter into discussions and build bridges for future joint research projects.



Leading Responsibly – Alumni of the Young Leaders Forum Discuss Values 4th Alumni Meeting of the Young Leaders Forum (YLF)

Inge KUTTER, Editor, Knowledge Section, Die ZEIT (Hamburg) and Alumnus of the YLF 2011

Ever since the financial crisis, a new debate about leadership has emerged in Germany. Society no longer tolerates leaders who have separated themselves from acting in the interest of all. The Occupy movement demands leaders to act responsibly. Companies are developing guidelines for social responsibility and various universities are establishing academic chairs for ethical leadership. The 4th Young Leaders Alumni Meeting was held under the heading “Leading with Value” at the Haus der Bayerischen Landwirtschaft conference center at Lake Ammer near Munich from June 28 to July 1, 2012. 30 alumni members and 14 participants from this year’s Young Leaders Forum met to hear presentations and engage in lively debate. The event sought to link the Young Leaders Forum with those who deal with executives and risk management, but also reach beyond this. The event is particularly relevant to the participants of the JDZB and Robert Bosch Foundation’s Young Leader Forum; they are already in leadership roles in Japan and Germany or are engaged in similar activities.

Perseverance was one virtue especially required of the event’s organizers – Christiane BUBE, Verena EBERHARD, Sabrina OMLAND, Mathias PAUL and me, the author of this report. Even before Christmas we were on the phone for hours in the

evening every few weeks to set the topics and find speakers. In the end spontaneity and creativity helped bring together the schedule at the event itself.

At the previous year’s meeting *yukatas* (cotton summer kimonos) and *karaoke* at a *ryokan* (Japanese hotel) helped break the ice among the participants, this year we decided to focus on football fever – Germany was playing in the semi finals on our first evening together. Unfortunately our Japanese friends waited in vain to shoot a celebratory photo of the German tricolor. The score was 2:0 for Italy. Still, the next day Munich showed its best side and the sun shone. At the office building of the Munich Re Group Prof. TANIMOTO Kanji from Waseda University (Tōkyō) reported on the activities of the Japanese company Yamato Holdings Co. Ltd after the 2011 earthquake and posed the question to what extent can workers take things into their own hands. Claudia BUHOLZER, who was in charge of the Japan Office of Munich Re at the time of the earthquake, spoke about the double challenge of having to manage the business of a reinsurance undertaking throughout the catastrophe, and which had also physically affected her own office. When the Fukushima accident happened she made the decision to evacuate her staff to Singapore.

The visitors from Japan had the opportunity to learn more about elements of German culture such as brass bands, *Goaßlschnalzern* and *Schuhplattlern* (whip cracking and folk dances) at the Munich Hofbräuhaus (brewery). Some of these Bavarian traditions were quite foreign to a few of the Germans as well.

Maud SCHMIEDEKNECHT from the New Responsibility Foundation gave an overview on the Saturday of the development of ISO-26000 for a global guide for social responsibility of organizations. The ensuing debate raised the question to which degree such guidelines have already infiltrated companies and organizations. The CSU Federal MP Thomas SILBERHORN spoke about dealing responsibly with the Euro crisis and had to answer the question of how he unified his own moral principles with those of his party.

The meeting ended with a discussion of personal values. All participants of the alumni meeting were asked to note down three values that are most important to them in the course of their career. In the closing session, rotating groups then justified their values and discussed the difficulties and confrontations that arose through their representation. The most common value cited by both the Japanese and the German participants was the responsibility that a manager would have for both work duties and staff. After this discussion there was no shortage of volunteers to organize the next alumni meeting to be held in 2013 in Japan.





Former Japanese Prime Minister KAN Naoto in discussion with the Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Ralph FÜCKS, during the Conference "Energy Innovation and Green Growth in Asia and Germany" held on July 4, 2012, at the Tōkyō International Forum. Partners of the JDZB were the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Berlin) and the Fujitsu Research Institute (Tōkyō).



Roundtable discussion "Japanese-German Dialogue on Security and Non-Proliferation" held on July 6, 2012, at the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) in Tōkyō. Partners of the JDZB were the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Berlin) and the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) of JIIA.



Photo left: Exhibition "Two Worlds" with oil paintings and graphics by KATŌ Atsuko and sculptures made out of stone and wood by KATŌ Kunihiko on display at the JDZB from May 14 to June 28, 2012. At the closing ceremony KATŌ helped the tree artist Ben WAGIN plant a ginkgo tree in front of the JDZB.



The evening program of this year's JDZB's Open House (held June 9, 2012) once again attracted a large audience with its Japanese "Culture to Experience." The trio "KOKOTOB" wowed the audience with jazz sounds from the marimba/vibraphone, piano and bass clarinet, and was accompanied by a special guest, singer Cymin SAMAWATIE. This was then followed by a fascinating Butō dance performed by the Motimaru Dance Company.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Symposium: Germany – China – Japan

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin; Institute for International Policy Studies, Tôkyô
November 16, 2012, in Tôkyô

RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, CLIMATE ENVIRONMENT

Second German-Japanese Solar Day

C: Fraunhofer Society, Tôkyô; Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE, Freiburg); New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) Tôkyô (tbc)
November 13, 2012, in Tôkyô

Conference: Resource Efficiency after Rio+20 – Towards Pioneering Actions in Japan and Germany

C: Wuppertal Institute for Climate the Environment and Energy
December 3, 2012

DEMOGRAPHY

Symposium: Balancing Act Family – Career: Current Political Challenges and Perspectives in Japan and Germany

C: Tsukuba University; Gießen University
September 17 – 18, 2012

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Symposium: German-Japanese Exchange on Disaster Mitigation

C: Association for International Disaster Prevention (DTRG), Berlin
September 10, 2012

Symposium: Internationalization of Japanese and German Universities – Institutional Strategies and Operational Processes and Structures

C: German Universities Rectors' Conference (HRK), Bonn; University of Cologne
October 17 – 18, 2012

STATE, ENTERPRIZES, CIVIL SOCIETY

Conference: Towards a New Trade Architecture – What Role for Japan and Europe?

C: German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin
Date: Fall 2012

DIALOG OF CULTURES

Seminar: Europe-Japan Relations

C: German Academic Exchange Service, Bonn; European Academy of Otzenhausen (EAO); Center for German and European Studies (DESK), Tôkyô University
September 27, 2012

SPECIAL PROJECT

21st Meeting of Japanese-German Forum

C: Japan Center for International Exchange, Tôkyô
November 6 – 7, 2012

CULTURAL EVENTS

CONCERT (7.30 p.m.)

Classical and Contemporary Shakuhachi Music with Christopher YOHMEI BLASDEL

C: Japanese Cultural Institute Cologne (The Japan Foundation, Liaison Office Berlin)
September 4, 2012

117th Dahlem Musical Soiree

NAKAMURA Tempei (Jazz Piano)
October 19, 2012

118th Dahlem Musical Soiree

Jacques THIBAUD Ensemble
November 9, 2012

EXHIBITION

“Inner Feelings – Pukupuku”

Paintings and Objects by OKABAYASHI Mayumi

Opening: September 7, 2012, 7 pm
On display until November 9, 2012

“Pulse Tokyo” Photographs by Lea NAGANO

Opening: November 30, 2012, 7 pm
On display until January 31, 2013

SALON CHATS

with the director and conductor SUZUKI Masaaki (Cembalo and Organ, Bach Collegium Japan)

November 16, 2012, 7 pm

MODERN DANCE

Talk on dancing and performances by the choreographers and dancers David BRANDSTÄTTER and Malgven GERBES

October 25, 2012, 7.30 pm, at the JDZB
October 26, 2012, 7.30 pm, at the Uferstudios Berlin-Wedding (performance only)

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
- Takenoko Fund

For details of the programs, please refer to “<http://www.jdzb.de> --> Exchange Programs”

Opening hours of exhibitions:

Monday to Thursday 10 am to 5 pm, Friday 10 am to 3.30 pm.

C: = in cooperation with

Venue: JDZB, if not stated otherwise.

For more information please refer to: <http://www.jdzb.de> --> Activities

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



Photos clockwise from top:

- Library entrance. The library houses reference and general books on many Japan-related areas, a collection of literature (both in original and translation) and childrens books as well as papers and periodicals. This is a lending library open to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 noon to 6 pm, and Thursday from 10 am to 6 pm.
- Quiet study areas where you can work undisturbed and browse through the collections at your leisure. The library has a computer work station with internet access.
- Evening ambience with a view of the JDZB's garden
- The JDZB entry with a view into the library
- Public reading of a Japanese fairy tale at the JDZB Open House (June 9. 2012)

