



The View into the Unfamiliar Sharpens the View into the Familiar Outcomes of German-Japanese Exchange Programs

Prof. Sabine PANKOFER

Japanese-German friendship is shaped by its strong consistency: in the year 2011 we were able to celebrate the 150th anniversary of friendly relations between Germany and Japan. One specific and intensive form of encounters is bilateral exchange programs, e.g., for specialists working in the field of youth work, young professionals, young volunteers as well as students. Many of these programs have existed for several decades and are organized by the JDZB and in part by the Office for International Youth Work of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB). Within these programs already more than several thousand Japanese and Germans have come together, learned about each other and exchanged views and opinions. What can we confirm are the outcomes of these diverse German-Japanese encoun-

ters? Unfortunately we do not have any systematic research to report. Nevertheless, based on my experiences as a participant in exchange programs and as a cooperation partner of the JDZB, my own observations and from many discussions, we can report sustainable developments that correspond with study results and evaluations on the outcomes of other exchange programs. (1)

The central factor of international exchange programs is to test and develop intercultural competencies. Many Germans experience Japan as a country where they can have a strong sense of encountering foreignness – and in fact this happens. The experiences that occur in Japan can make you stop and wonder – which in itself is a wonderful state of existence;

to be pulled out of your own routine and familiar thought patterns and to become conscious of them. Although temporally brief, these nevertheless extraordinary and intensive experiences are particularly valuable for many participants, especially when they reflect on them; they enable us empathetic introspection, e.g., to empathize with the situation facing a migrant to German society, someone who neither speaks the language nor understands the cultural subtleties. Moreover, by understanding other systems, we develop methods and specialist avenues of critical thinking toward our own implicitness, toward our own regular way of thinking and doing things: could things perhaps be done differently. To constantly reflect on this nagging thought and develop curiosity is



As one of five Japanese scientists, Dr. HIROSUGI Taro was awarded the Gottfried Wagener Prize 2013 (also known as the German Innovation Award) for the development of titanium dioxide transparent conductors. HIROSUGI is Associate Professor at the Advanced Institute for Materials Research at the University of Tôhoku and in 2007 he was a participant in the JDZB's Junior Experts Exchange Program. The winner is pictured with the Head of the Jury, Dr. AIZAWA Masuo (Counselor to the President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and former president of the Tokyo Institute of Technology). (Photo: German Research and Innovation Forum Tokyo)

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a great opportunity and has an intensive and ongoing effect. I experience this time and again in myself and in other participants. In this regard these experiences have a huge effect on the development of character – and not only in young people since one of the major challenges faced by experienced staff in social work is to become involved in unfamiliar situations and adjust to them. This requires inner flexibility and courage – something that is constantly experienced and activated in an exchange program.

Exchange programs offer, above all when they are based on intensive and strong content preparations (for example, through preparatory seminars and the availability of lots of materials), the opportunity for a personal and professional exchange during the visit and then afterwards. In particular, exchange programs that are grouped under an annual theme enable participants a specific discussion and penetration into a profession. The view of each unfamiliar system suggests what was thought to be apparently obvious, normal and the only real solution: to see that things can work in another way, allowing us, based on technical and intercultural competencies to reinterpret and implement new solutions back to our own circumstances – and in accordance with: think global, act local. Actual examples include youth work colleagues being inspired by the idea of an intergenerational setting of old and young together and trying to implement this back home in their own organizations. And in the area of social workers' study programs, a Japanese colleague took up the idea of a period of supervised practical professional experience back to her own university and with great tenacity and persistence has set about making it happen.

The opportunity for intensive networking is another important factor: many participants receive lots of email and occasional visits from Japanese professional colleagues. There are joint publications (currently being prepared). One Japanese participant is planning to spend

her sabbatical at a German university and in an organization which will allow her to further develop ideas for practical experience for social workers. These networks lead to something which is also a central sustainable outcome of exchange programs: developing friendships. Particularly effective are home stays with host families that often lead to long-term relationships and mutual visits. And then there's the increase in virtual meetings: and it's not only the young who take up the opportunity and exchange views over social networking sites and virtual media long after the journey has been completed. I have heard in many discussions how important this exchange is, particularly for young Japanese people who – not least due to the difficult situation of Japan after 20 years of recession and the consequences of the earthquake and Tsunami catastrophe in 2011 – are looking for new impulses and courage for social change. In this respect these exchange programs have a high social significance – and especially in difficult times. That's a great result.

* * *

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(1) Cf. IJAB/FPD (2012): Internationale Jugendarbeit wirkt. Forschungsergebnisse im Überblick (2012) oder Erfahrungsberichte des DAAD über die „Wege nach Japan“ (<https://www.daad.de/portrait/presse/publikationen/11377.de.html>)



Dear Readers,

Personal encounters and experiences are the key to mutual understanding, and this especially holds true for Germany-Japan relations. Each year, through its exchange programs, the JDZB brings together dozens of Japanese and Germans in specialized programs to enter into discussions. Most of the exchange programs are held throughout the summer, which is why we have two articles in this Echo edition: the first is by a participant of the Junior Experts Program who reports on his personal and professional impressions of Germany, and the other main article's author clearly outlines what the sustainable effects of German-Japanese exchange programs are in general, and what sort of stimuli they create for those working in the field of youth work in particular.

A second key is of course foreign language abilities, and we take this opportunity to provide you with a comprehensive overview of our Japanese language courses. Perhaps some of you would like to come along and try one?

Summer is also the time at the JDZB when we prepare the program for the coming fall and next year. The conferences held throughout the fall reflect our commitment to continue to promote sustainable exchanges, and indeed, corporate social responsibility, security policy, energy policy and biodiversity all seek to further examine past topics. New, however, is the symposium to be held in November in Sendai – in the middle of Tōhoku, which deals with policies for regional and rural areas with shrinking populations.

We hope you come and visit some of our events and we welcome you to participate in the German-Japanese dialog.

Dr. Friederike Bosse, JDZB Secretary General

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On 9 September 2013 the JDZB will host a panel discussion on the topic “New Bridges between Ecology and Society – Japanese and European Experiences at the Science-Policy Interface”. The panel will be held within the framework of the 43rd anniversary of the Ecology Association with German and Japanese experts at the University of Potsdam. The following is an interview on the topic with Dr. Stefan HOTES from Philipps University of Marburg.

At the panel discussion and in some of the presentations at the conference, talks will deal with the sustainable use of cultural landscapes in Germany and Japan in the conflict area between ecology and economics. What’s this about?

In the field of cultural landscapes – that is those areas that have been shaped by human usage – we are dealing with two trends: on the one hand there is an increasing intensity of usage, but there are also areas that are no longer being used because it’s uneconomical – both have negative impacts on maintaining species-rich, multifunctional cultural landscapes. Therefore, we are seeking new opportunities in both countries to minimize the negative effects.

Are there different viewpoints of science and politics, and, if yes, can they be brought into unison?

It’s not so much a case of different viewpoints, rather the different languages that are used to describe them. Science attempts to describe in detail how the coupling of ecological, economic and social systems functions in cultural landscapes. It’s difficult to derive simple messages that are easily communicated and implemented. On the other hand, policies ask for directly implementable solutions – and it’s not easy for science to meet the demands of policies. Nevertheless over the past few years an increasing number of projects have been established at the interface between politics and science which try to build bridges from theory to application.

An important project here is the German-Japanese Cooperative Project JAGUAR*, which is supported by the German Ministry for Education and Research. Can you explain a bit more?

I coordinate this project together with Prof. Volkmar WOLTERS and Dr. Fred JOPP (Institute for General and Special Zoology of the University of Gießen, Working Group - Animal Ecology). The project deals with the same range of topics as the conference in September: how do we shape cultural landscapes to meet all demands: supplying food for populations and raw materials for industry, balancing water supplies, minimizing processes that damage

the environment etc. A central component here is biodiversity, i.e., the biological variety that steers many of these processes, but which are lost with the current forms of utilization.

What are the trends in research in Japan and Germany in the fields of biodiversity and sustainability?

We already have large research programs and projects in both countries, however direct cooperation with Japanese colleagues in the form used by JAGUAR is something new. The problems and situations are in part very similar in Japan and Germany. For example we can observe rural exodus in both countries. Rural communities are dying out causing supply and disposal systems to be no longer suitable, and the question is asked who is responsible for servicing rural areas. It’s interesting to see the different emphases in social structures and how both countries formulate individual methods of resolution – and this is where we can learn from each other!

What influence on the project does the so called energy transition have with shifting away from nuclear power in Germany and the threefold catastrophe in Japan with the nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima?

This is a core area for us because the energy transition is most evident as a fundamental factor in landscapes, for example, solar power plants, wind farms, biogas plants with the corresponding production surfaces required

for biomass etc. Basically it’s about the question: where can we draw energy from in the future that will adequately supply households and industries? Both Japan and Germany face similar challenges here as well. Both must look for solutions that relieve our dependence on fossil fuel supplies and nuclear power – and which can take control of climate change and at the same time provide enough energy without endangering biodiversity.

How can Germany and Japan contribute to solving the problems described above? Are there any concrete utility concepts?

We are seeking comprehensive solutions that will take into account the close interrelationship of problems, which is a comprehensive approach with not only sectoral solutions. We don’t have a ready concept yet, but it’s about procedures that take into account both positive and negative effects of political and economic decision-making processes on the ecosystem. One component could be to orient towards relatively small regions in which the economic cycles are aligned in a way that brings into equilibrium ecological, economic and social effects. However this goes against the great political and economic trends of globalization which makes the implementation of these concepts an enormous challenge. Nevertheless, based on knowledge from science and research, we need to develop proposals that we can implement to find real sustainability.

* The acronym “JAGUAR” is derived from the project’s English title: Sustainable futures for cultural landscapes of **J**apan and **G**ermany – biodiversity and ecosystem services as **U**nifying concepts for the management of **A**gricultural **R**egions



Dr. HOTES with Dr. JOPP and Japanese colleagues at the University of Tōkyō during discussions about land use, biodiversity and ecosystem services in the city of Kuromatsunai on Hokkaidō, a partner region of the JAGUAR project. (photo: ISHII Jun)

**“Leadership and Authority in Asia: Political Leadership and Leadership Styles in Asia”
Academic Conference of the German Association for Asian Studies (DGA)
Miriam FRANZ, DGA**

This conference was held during the DGA members’ general meeting from 20 to 21 June 2013 at the JDZB. Prof. Aurel CROISSANT (University of Heidelberg) gave the opening address where he overviewed the topic in his paper titled “The Multitude of Political Systems and Diverging Sources of Legitimacy and Authority in Asia.” He outlined the complexity of the term *leadership* as well as its different manifestations. By providing a general outline of the various political regimes in Asia, the complexity of the term became apparent. Overall his presentation showed how we have seen a return to military autocracy and an increase in multiparty systems over the past 40 years in Asia. In contrast to global developments, communist systems (China, Vietnam) remain and seem to be stable and resistant to changes. Political systems attain their legitimacy from various sources. CROISSANT clearly revealed that many autocracies can still continue to successfully legitimize their right to govern. Moreover, he emphasized, there is greater support of political systems in authoritatively governed Asia than compared with democratically governed Asia.

After a series of brief and stimulating presentations an international panel discussed the challenges of leadership which were examined by the panel members’ specific expertise in the regions of Japan (Dr. Alexandra SAKAKI, Berlin), South-East Asia (Prof. YAMAMOTO Nobuto, Tôkyô) and China (Prof. Katja LEVY, Berlin). Global and regional challenges influence practices as well as globalization processes and, in a special way, economic processes. However the perception of leadership, in particular the perception of leadership in your own country, is influenced by the perception of other countries as well.

The first conference day showed that leadership in Asia can be viewed from three perspectives: economic, political and religious.

The second day examined closely the question of how each leadership or government gained its legitimacy. Under the heading “Dynasties and Democracy: various forms of governance in Asia,” the experts offered new ideas to each of their regions of North Asia (Prof. Claudia DERICHS, Marburg),

South Asia (Dr. Christian WAGNER, Berlin) and Southeast Asia (Dr. Patrick ZIEGENHAIN, Trier). It quickly became clear that in Southeast Asia quite often the connection between dynasties and democracy shapes the form of government. But also the growing number of successful business people entering into politics increasingly shapes political processes as well. Prof. DERICHS outlined the role of women in political leadership roles in North Asia using two examples. According to Dr. WAGNER, in the South Asia region the differences between authoritative systems and democracy are less pronounced. The reasons for this can be generalized for other regions of Asia. The social structure and political party and institutional structures are highly relevant to the political system. Sometimes dynastic structures are so strongly rooted that change would occur only very slowly. In some countries they have an inhibitory effect, and in other countries – such as Sri Lanka – they can be more positive.

Various leadership traditions in companies and partly in politics (China) were overviewed in the regions of Japan (Prof. Franz WALDENBERGER, Munich), Korea (Prof. Fabian Jintae FROESE, Göttingen), Indonesia (Dr. Christian von LÜBKE, Freiburg) and China (Prof. Doris FISCHER, Würzburg). For example, the various leadership traditions that are demonstrated through interaction between staff and leaders as well as differ-

ent developments in the role the economy plays in politics, again revealed the diversity in Asia. In Korea and Japan we hardly notice any differences in the various generations of leaders, however in China and Indonesia huge differences are evident.

Workshop II in the afternoon dealt with the role of religion as a third dimension of leadership. Experts from the regions of India (Raphael SUSEWIND, Oxford/Bielefeld), Iran (Simin FADAAE, Berlin) and Indonesia (Syafiq HASYIM, Berlin) demonstrated how the influence of religion in secular countries such as Japan cannot be underestimated, and, depending on each region, religion can have a decisive influence on politics. Raphael SUSEWIND gave a case study of the Intra-Ulema politics in India. We can see religion, political influence and economic interests acting hand-in-hand in all countries examined.

The closing panel of the conference summarized with lively discussions a possible global Asian claim to leadership. Talks here revealed that there is not an individual claim for an Asian style of leadership and there is not an Asian leadership. In any case, individual regions could potentially raise a claim for other regions in the future. Even China will not concede a claim for global leadership; at the most it will be a claim for leadership in the Asian region. Models for Asian leadership in an ever complex and globalizing world must still be developed, and even then their successful global claims are debatable.



German-Japanese Exchange Program for Young Experts (6-17 June 2013) TOYODA Toshihide, R & D Department, Medical Systems Division, Shimadzu Corp.

The German-Japanese Exchange Program for Young Experts, which now looks back on a decade of history, adopted medical technology as its theme for the year 2012/2013 focusing on medical imaging and miniaturized medical technology. This project aims to deepen mutual understanding and create personal networks through visits and tours of research institutions and companies. In December 2012, a group of German experts visited Japan and in June 2013 the Japanese delegation toured Germany. I was lucky to have the opportunity to take part as a member of this Japanese delegation.

In total eight people participated from Japan whose various backgrounds surprised me. We all came from quite different institutions: universities, clinics, research institutions and companies. This allowed us to discuss the wide field of health care using various topics and from different perspectives, which was very interesting.

On the first day we visited the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung – BMBF) where we learned that government, education and research institutions and companies are working closely together to create national structures to improve technological performance in focal areas and which are not limited to national boundaries, rather they seek to develop cooperation around the world. The “healthcare sector”, i.e., the actual topic of our exchange program, would be an object of these initiatives. Time and again we were able to witness the successful practical applications of these initiatives during our visits to these institutions. And they were not only concerned with continually improving technological performances but rather they had a strong focus on developing effective mechanisms that can strengthen the motivation and performance of the experts involved.

In all the locations we visited throughout the program the obvious “fusion character” left the strongest impression. Here are a few examples.

First a system exists whereby research institutes receive requests from companies to carry out projects and then make the solutions available. In Japan it is quite common to develop projects in collaboration with in-company research and development departments and to develop research facilities in the company themselves. Thus, solutions can only be found

that draw from the knowledge, experiences, equipment and budgets of research institutions of individual companies. Both countries’ systems each have their own advantages and disadvantages and it’s not easy to say which system works better. However, it seems to me that it raises a number of points that we should reference.

In addition, systems are created at medical clinics where experts of medical physics mediate clinical knowledge or which serve to demonstrate the use of instruments that involve the manufacturer in the process and provide feedback based on the user’s real experiences. While doctors, technical staff, medical physics experts etc use their various expertises to create synergies that complement each other and which reach beyond a simple “team as an assemblage of individuals.” It’s all about providing effective medical treatment.

I was also impressed with the various experts we met during our visits. They all seemed to have created for themselves a highly balanced relationship between work and personal life. It did not seem as if they were “completely consumed by their work,” rather they appeared to “enjoy their work.” Perhaps this was because we had exceptionally beautiful weather during our stay in Germany and there were people everywhere who even during week evenings could be seen in city centers eating and drinking and amusing themselves and creating a lively and even exciting atmosphere. These animated gatherings often carried on way past midnight. However, in contrast most shops and businesses are closed on Sunday when people spend their time at home with their families. It was fascinating to see how through clever swapping you can lead a fulfilling life.

The program schedule was jam-packed and quite tiring. Within one week we had visited seven cities as well as 12 institutions and companies. The range of institutions and companies was quite varied: the Fraunhofer organization and eight others, in total nine research institutes (basic research), two medical clinics including University Hospital Bonn (clinical field), as well as Siemens (industry field), whereby the wishes of the majority of the participants were largely met. We were warmly welcomed on all our visits, without exception. At all locations people took the time to explain things, show us the laboratories and generously give us access to the most modern research agendas and provided friendly and detailed answers to all our questions. Thanks to the great hospitality and the welcoming nature of the German hosts our days spent touring were very worthwhile indeed. Perhaps it’s a German characteristic, but I also think that the course set by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research prevails overall, and that priority projects are reliably carried out based on clear visions and a robust self-confidence.

On behalf of all the participants I would like to express my gratitude and high regard to all those involved on the Japanese and German sides who made possible this enormously important and valuable experience. I would like to especially thank the staff of the Japanese-German Center Berlin for all their efforts in developing and implementing the program for the Japanese participants, the German experts for their great good will during our visits to their institutions and companies, each person who was responsible for their attendance and support throughout the schedule, the staff in the companies and institutions back home in Japan who kindly agreed to let us participate and to our colleagues who relieved our duties while we were away, as well as all those people we encountered during our visit to Germany.



Participants in front of Augustusburg Castle (author, second from right)



Symposium “The Perception of China and Foreign Policy Options for Germany and Japan” on 4 and 5 June 2013. The photo shows the participants of the panel discussion held at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) on 4 June and which was open to the public (from left): Finn MAYER-KUCKUK (Handelsblatt newspaper, Beijing), YUAN Chong (China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, CICIR), MP Dr. Rolf MÜTZENICH (Chair of the German-Japanese Parliamentary Group), Panel Chair Jürgen STETTEN (FES), NAKAGAWA Masaharu (Member of Parliament, DPJ), Commentator Prof. Thomas BERGER (University of Boston). The symposium was continued the next day with a specialists’ workshop held at the JDZB.



German-Japanese Workshop on Compliance held on 16 May 2013 at Keiō University in Tōkyō. In cooperation with the German-Japanese Lawyers’ Association (Deutsch-Japanischen Juristenvereinigung, Hamburg) discussions were held that examined the current state of compliance in Japan and Germany.



Salon Chat with ÔGIMI Yûki (left, player with 1st FFC Turbine Potsdam, Winner of World Championship 2011) and Pierre LITBARSKI (Head Scout of VfL Wolfsburg, Winner of World Championship 1990) about soccer in Japan and Germany on 14 May 2013 at the JDZB; moderator KAWAUCHI Aki-ko (Head of JDZB Cultural Department). Report in full on JDZB website!



Lecture on “Expressing Identity of Japanese Youths” at the presentation of results at “Denkwerk: Japan in the 21st Century – Society in upheaval?” on 22 May 2013 at the JDZB. The cooperation project between the Free University Berlin, two high schools and the JDZB, is supported within the framework “Denkwerk” by the Robert Bosch Foundation.



The JDZB’s traditional Open House on 8 June 2013. Once again there was lots of culture to experience up close: Origami, Calligraphy, Ikebana; Mieko FISCH showed how to put on a kimono. Of much interest also was a Manga workshop, a demonstration of Shiatsu and the Japan-related lectures. In the evening, the Berlin Band “OSCA” played German-Japanese pop music to a wildly receptive audience.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

4th Japanese-German Dialog on Security

C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin; Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) at the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA), Tôkyô
6 September 2013

RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, CLIMATE ENVIRONMENT

Symposium: Energy for Tomorrow – Energy Shift and Climate Protection at the Local Level

C: Nagoya University
24 October 2013, in Nagoya

Symposium: Renewable Energies in Japan and Germany – Implementation and Legal Conditions

C: Waseda University, Tôkyô; Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Tôkyô
9 December 2013, in Tôkyô

DEMOGRAPHY

Symposium: Guardianship Law

C: Chûô University, Tôkyô; Japan Adult Guardian Law Association, Tôkyô
22 October 2013, in Tôkyô

Symposium: Demography and Corporations

C: Mitsubishi Research Institute, Tôkyô
6 November 2013, in Tôkyô

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Symposium: New Bridges between Ecology and Society – Japanese and European Experiences at the Science-Policy Interface

C: Tôkyô University; Giessen University; Ecological Society, Berlin
9 September 2013, 7 pm, in Potsdam

STATE, CORPORATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY

Symposium: CSR and Corporate Governance

C: Waseda University, Tôkyô; Humboldt University Berlin; Japan Forum of Business and Society, Tôkyô
19–20 September 2013, in Tôkyô

Workshop: Universities between Tradition and Innovation

C: International Relations in Science (IRIS), Tôkyô
21 October 2013

Conference: Revitalizing Local Communities with Declining Population in Japan and Germany

C: Institute for Behavioral Studies (IBS), Tôkyô; Tôhoku University, Sendai
1 November 2013, in Sendai

Conference: Social Inequality in Japan

C: German Association for Social Science Japan Research
21–24 November 2013

DIALOG OF CULTURES

European Policy Seminar

C: European Akademy Otzenhausen (EAO); Tôkyô University
26–27 September 2013

Symposium: Potentials and Challenges of International Communication in the New Era

C: The Japan Foundation, Tôkyô
11–12 December 2013

SPECIAL PROJECT

22nd Meeting of Japanese-German Forum

C: German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tôkyô
29–30 October 2013, in Tôkyô

CULTURAL EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

YOKOO Tatsuhiko / Paintings + Axel ANKLAM / Sculptures

Opening: 15 August 2013, 7 pm
On display from 16 August until 27 September 2013

Photographs by Gerald CHRIST

Opening: 10 October 2013, 7 pm
On display from 11 October until 27 November 2013

Group Exhibition of Young Artists: The Unconscious Natural Law

Opening: 10 December 2013, 7 pm
On display from 11 December 2013 until 31 January 2014

OTHERS

Long Night of the Libraries

24 October 2013, 5 pm–10 pm

Movie Screening „Hâfu“ and Discussion with Director TAKAGI Lala:

Dokumentary film about the social experiences of Japanese of mixed heritage in Japan (German Première)
24 October 2013, 6.30 pm

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



The JDZB offers Japanese language classes for non-native speakers in integrated communicative steps: a learning method that facilitates entry into the Japanese language whereby it eliminates the fear of pronouncing foreign words and learning the complicated characters. The classes place great emphasis in training listening and pronunciation skills for beginners (*photo above left, clockwise*), but also in promoting communication competencies. The Sino-Japanese characters are taught in a playful and relaxed manner. At the end of the course all participants get a chance to show what they have learned. Depending on the class, everyone sits on the carpet – no outdoors shoes allowed! – or around a table such as the participants of the “Working Group Translating German-Japanese.”

Japan’s culture and traditions are also taught in the classes; for example there are introductory classes to calligraphy or dressing up in summer kimonos (*participants in photo, above right*). More information about the language courses will be available at the next JDZB Open House to be held in June 2014.



All classes are held in the facilities of the JDZB from 6 pm to 8 pm and run throughout the year (40 weeks of classes).

Attention: From the coming year classes will commence in mid January and run until early December.

The participants of the current course (November 2012 – October 2013) will be offered suitable bridging classes in November and December 2013. If you already have some Japanese skills you can join at any time, subject to a suitable class being available.

All classes start from 20 January 2014; Beginners’ classes with no previous knowledge will start on 21 January 2014.

For further information, please see our website www.jdzb.de, or email your inquiry to the Head of Language Services, SEKIKAWA Fujiko (fsekikawa@jdzb.de)

