

Could 1914 be repeated?

Dr. Theo SOMMER, DIE ZEIT

Everywhere in the western world with our eyes focussed on the future, this year we look back on the past as well, to be more precise: on that fateful year in 1914 when Europe plunged itself into the primal catastrophe of the 20th century.

The people were weary of the boredom of long periods of peace and, charged with nationalism, almost eager for redemption by war, unable to imagine its horrors, duration and costs in property and blood. Their leaders however, caught up in thoughts of cold power and prestige and incapable of averting a war that nobody really wanted, walked towards it their sleep, slipping the old world into a European civil war, which – with a brief interruption from 1919-1939 and in a different form after 1949 – lasted for three quarters of a century: until 1989.

It begs the question: Could 1914 be repeated? The honest, realistic answer: it cannot be completely excluded.

In Europe, a relapse into the barbarism of war is equal to zero. After two devastating world wars it has found peace. The last armed conflict played out in the 1990s in the Balkans. The establishment of peace has not yet been fully realized there: ethnic strife in Bosnia and in Kosovo prevented the last step towards normalization and the inclusion of Yugoslavia's successor states into the peaceful community of the European Union. But a European war will no longer start in Sarajevo, and neither from the tussles between the EU and Russia about the Ukrainian, Moldavian, Georgian intermediate Europe.

In contrast to the Middle East; there, during the First World War following the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, the political order drafted by the French and British in the Sykes-Picot Agreement is in the process of dissolution. Iraq, Syria, the Lebanon are crumbling into chaos and anarchy. A world war will not result, but it will take one or even two generations before the troubled Arab world comes to rest in a new order. Even the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to smolder, and, despite all efforts by U.S. Secretary of State KERRY, a solution is not in sight.

In Africa, the situation is similarly oppressive. It remains a continent situated between hope and horror. Mali, the Central African Republic, Congo, Somalia, Sudan are not the only states where tribal differences, religious antagonisms



Participants of the symposium on "Preventive Medicine and Public Health in Japan and Germany", held on 18 February 2014 at the JDZB; among them the great grandson of the author MORI Ōgai, Prof. MORI Chisato (M. D., Ph. D., Director of Center for Preventive Medical Science, Chiba University).

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– between Muslims and Christians, but also within the Islamic Umma – and economic exploitations threaten peace. Western interventions cannot achieve much, African just as little. It will take some time before peace and tranquility return to Africa as well.

Worryingly, even threateningly, are however the developments in the Asian-Pacific region. In the South China Sea, half a dozen of China's neighbors must come to grips with its robust territorial claims. The situation is acutely dangerous in the East China Sea, where Chinese and Japanese fight for the tiny, barren and uninhabited rock islands of *Diayutai/Senkaku*. And they are not shying away from the deployment of naval and air forces.

At the two major geopolitical events held in the month of January, the Davos World Economic Forum and the Munich Security Conference, concerns were repeatedly raised to ensure that the regional powers of China and Japan would not walk blindly into a devastating armed conflict as the European powers did a hundred years ago. The unsettling thing: hardly anyone wanted to exclude it entirely.

Jean-Pierre CHEVÈNEMENT, the former French defense and interior minister, writes in his recently published book "1914-2014": "The rise of China in the global economy is reminiscent of the German Empire at the turn of the century." The German historian Michael STÜRMER sees it thus: 'A geopolitical challenge is taking shape in the Far East where China, like imperial Germany a hundred years before, throws away the existing relationship between the ruling forces, without exercising restraint or even wanting to.' Even a renowned China expert such as former Australian Prime Minister Kevin RUDD recognizes in the tense relationship between China and Japan worrying similarities between then and now. In Munich, Henry KISSINGER said in all clarity: "We cannot exclude an armed conflict."

Between China and Japan the old enmity, grown and nurtured by the Japanese wars of attack from 1894/95 and 1931-45, continue to poison even today. The two peoples have no sympathy for each other. According to Pen Research 90 percent of the Chinese perceive the Japanese as negative and only 5 percent of the Japanese see the Chinese in a positive light. The waves of irreconcilable nationalism surge high in Japan and in China, irreconcilability is the trump card.

The new leaders in both countries, Xi Jinping in Beijing and ABE Shinzō in Tōkyō are well matched in hardness and stubbornness in every way. The germ of a collision is visible in their relentless confrontation that would not leave the West unaffected. According to Ian MORRIS, "The next 40 years could be the most dangerous in the world's history."

"Nobody is talking about a third world war between China and the West. Not yet," wrote the Guardian in its new year's edition. The insinuation: 1914 could well be repeated. It's high time to reflect on the lessons of the disastrous events that occurred back then.



Dr. Theo SOMMER is the former editor in chief and publisher of the German weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT. He was a member of the Japanese-German Forum from 1993 to 2009.

Dear Readers!

In this edition of *jdzb echo* we're looking back on a number of things: nine years of school exchange thanks to the generous support of Daimler AG and the Takenoko Fund, a year of "Abenomics" economic policy in an article written by former Japanese Minister for Economics and economist TAKENAKA Heizō who provides a differentiated but on the whole positive appraisal, and finally we look back on the year 1914 and the start of the First World War. In his leading article Theo SOMMER compares the current political situation with Europe back then and looks with some concern toward East Asia. We can only join in his hope that we may learn from experiences.

For this reason the JDZB will continue to deal with the security situation in East Asia and potential collaborations between the EU/Germany and Japan in the field of security as well as the further implementation of "Abenomics". A conference on women in leadership positions is part of the latter and Prime Minister ABE announced that increasing the participation of women in the economy and society as one of his goals. The JDZB already held a conference on this topic in 2001 and since then it has consistently appeared on the agenda in Germany, but less so in Japan. It will be interesting to see how German-Japanese discussions progress in Tōkyō in May this year, 13 years after the first conference was held.

Dr. Friederike BOSSE
JDZB Secretary General

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Address of the JDZB:
Saargemünder Str. 2, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Tel.: +49-30-839 07 0 Fax: +49-30-839 07 220
E-Mail: jdzb@jdzb.de URL: <http://www.jdzb.de>

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On 20 May 2014 the JDZB and the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs will hold a symposium on “Women in Leadership Positions” in Tôkyô. The JDZB already dealt with this topic in September 2001. The following is an interview with Dr. Elke HOLST, Research Director Gender Studies at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung DIW Berlin), and a participant in the first symposium 13 years ago.

In your last presentation in 2001 you stated there was a massive deficit of women participating in the German labor force in general and in leadership positions in particular. Has much changed over the past 13 years?

I think predominantly there has been a shift in public perception. Due to the rapid increase in the number of educated women in the past few decades – women now exceed men as university graduates, often with better results – and the ongoing smaller representation in leadership roles, we are starting to doubt the functionality of the market and there is an increasing demand for government interventions, such as quotas for women.

Ten years ago a law was passed in Norway that stipulated an increase of 40% of women on boards in companies listed on the stock exchange within a transitional period of five years; this goal was achieved (from 7% to more than 40%). Is Norway a role model for Germany?

According to the European Commission the percentage of women in executive boards of the largest listed companies increased the quickest in countries with a quota for women – take Iceland as an example. In a Europe-wide comparison, Germany looks pretty good where it sits in the upper middle percentile. However we need to understand that different corporate governance structures exist in each country. Germany has a dualistic system with an executive board and a supervisory board. Norway on the other hand has a monistic system with only one board. And then there’s the uniquely German codetermination model. Employees’ representatives significantly delegate more women than shareholders to the supervisory board; this increases the overall share of women on supervisory boards. Since 2006 the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin (DIW Berlin) has been examining far more companies than the 30 largest listed companies in the DAX30, that represent Germany in the comparative survey of the European Com-

mission. At the end of 2013 the number of women on boards of the 200 largest companies still stands at 4.4%, on supervisory boards the number of women looks a little better with 15.1% (manager barometer in the DIW Weekly Report 3/2014). Incidentally Japan has the lowest percentage of all the industrialized countries: only 1.1% of all directors of boards are women, a figure that remains unchanged since 2009 – the average of all industrialized countries is 11.1% (see GMI Ratings 2012 Women on Board Ratings). Japan’s Prime Minister ABE Shinzô is now aiming to increase the percentage of women in leading position to 30% by 2020. We should not underestimate the associated challenges.

Could you say that the quota is a key element to increasing the participation of women in the economy – and not only at the executive level but at all levels?

Quotas are *one* instrument. In order to reach set targets within a stipulated timeframe there also needs to be changes in corporate organization and culture. Currently almost all executive positions are occupied by men who know only other men in similar positions through their networks. This way, even highly qualified woman, despite their excellent efforts, do not even appear on the radar of decision-makers. This is an important task for corporate executives to counteract and it requires efficient human resource development as well as clear targets. When women take on executive positions they are moving beyond traditional role models. And within this context it is very important to include from the start all executives in the company to ‘accompany’ them in order to counter tendencies of maintaining the status quo in old and more familiar structures.

What about the so-called Work-Life-Balance? Have we created conditions in society to allow women (and men!?) to take on leadership positions at work and have a reasonably balanced family and private life?



A good work-life balance is very important, but mostly non-existent in executive positions in Germany. This is due to the responsibility of being present and the expectation that (potential) corporate leaders make themselves wholly available to the company. The customary long hours at work do not allow men or women to unite family and work. There are more opportunities at lower levels – but this then leads to the so called “Mummy tracks” part-time work without career opportunities - that are taken between the ages of 27 and 35 – and it is exactly within this time that women have children. We need more flexible career models. Demographic change, which urgently needs the talent of highly qualified females, makes it even more urgent to bring about change.

Have legal improvements to family leave such as paternity leave or parental leave, legal rights to child care, flexible working hours, etc., not had any influence on the situation?

Of course. Young men want more than their fathers’ generation to see their children grow up and they take paternity leave – this is a step in the right direction but mostly it’s of short duration so as not to endanger their careers – and then they work harder and longer hours to make up for the lost income and to move their careers forward. Overall, there is still a very traditional way of thinking in corporate philosophy, there is still much to do. In addition, it’s not good for the companies when men leave the workplace due to heart attacks, burnout and other illnesses – a healthy work-life balance would benefit both men and women.

One Year of Abenomics – an interim report

By TAKENAKA Heizô

Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University

Member of the Industrial Competitiveness Council, Headquarters for Japan's Economic Revitalization

After the Nikkei-Index reached its highest point of 38,000 Yen in December 1989, the economic bubble burst. The following stagnation of the Japanese economy is regarded as a serious problem. Some economists hold the theory that the "rate of growth of high-income countries is low and the growth rate of low-income countries is high, thus inevitably they will converge somewhere." Kishore MAHBUBANI (National University of Singapore) writes that the speed of convergence is now accelerating. According to MAHBUBANI there are currently 500 million people that belong to the middle classes, when the Olympic Games take place in Tôkyô 2020 this figure will increase to 1.77 billion people. If we consider that Japan's population will continue to decrease in the future, Japan and Germany should ask themselves how they can use the vitality of these newly industrializing countries for their own growth.

According to Prime Minister ABE, the effects of the 15 years of "deflation are the root of all evil". Consumers first greeted the decrease in prices as something positive, however the decreases in their own income made it more difficult to service mortgages and business loans etc. Economic activities came to a standstill. This is why the ABE government at the beginning of its term in office in December 2012 declared a series of economic policy measures that became known as "Abenomics". The cornerstones are the "three arrows": monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and structural reforms that encourage growth through increased private investment. This introduced drastic reforms to the Japanese economy that included solutions to the problems of deflation.

The theory that a decreasing population is the cause of deflation is difficult to believe. Currently in 24 countries around the world populations are decreasing but only Japan is confronted with deflation. Its cause is more likely to lie in the insufficient money supply. Thus, deflation should be countered with an extreme easing of monetary policy, the first of the "three arrows". KURODA Haruhiko, President of the Bank of Japan since March

2013, announced shortly after taking office that he would double the amount of money in the economy in two years. This awakened hope and the Nikkei increased within a year by 57% (Dow-Jones 30%, DAX 25%). The first arrow fell directly in the black and was awarded an "A".

The second "arrow" (flexible fiscal policy) consists of short and long-term measures. In the short-term, public investment shall increase demand and stimulate the economy. Therefore in the 2013 fiscal year an additional budget of 10 trillion Yen (approximately 70 billion Euro) was implemented. The long-term measures are aimed at restructuring public finances, i.e., by transferring the primary balance into the black again and recovering the financial system. During the creation of KOIZUMI's cabinet in 2001 the deficit of the primary balance was 5% of GDP, by 2006 it had recovered to minus 1% without increasing the value-added tax. The Japanese tax revenue revealed in times of economic recovery a high income flexibility, i.e., when the GDP increases by 1% the revenue increases by 4%. With the growth strategy tax revenues shall also be raised by a larger GDP, at the same time reforms will be carried out to the pension and health systems to counteract the increases in expenditure. The average life expectancy when the pension system was introduced was 66 years in Japan, thus the pension after 65 years was no problem. Today average life expectancy in Japan is 80 years, and the system is no longer able to support this. In April the value added tax will increase from its current 5% to 8%. The additional income will be used to expand social security for the younger generation; this includes childcare and maternity leave to make it easier for woman to play a more active role in society. The short-term measures of the second arrow have been implemented, the long-term measures have been only partly implemented, and this has been awarded a "B".

The third arrow (growth strategy) will create a climate for economic growth in which companies can act freely and compete

constructively. Existing regulations must be decreased here and the burdens for companies must be reduced. Thus, at the end of 2013 the *National Strategic Special Zones* bill was passed. This bill seeks to attract international investment and strengthen the international competitiveness of the domestic economy.

At the global economic forum held in Davos at the end of January Prime Minister ABE described these special zones as a breakthrough and announced "to reform all regulations that until now were regarded as 'written in stone' in the coming two years." Even the Olympic Games and Paralympics Games in Tôkyô will be brought forward by deregulation. In addition to the "hard" effects – such as improvements to infrastructure – the greater exposure of Tôkyô and Japan will have an effect on the soft power, the so called "save face effect". According to research in countries which have hosted the Olympic Games throughout the past 50 years, trade during the games increased by approximately 30%. International attention increases the conviction to get rid of "unique regulations" because they are regarded as "embarrassing". Internal reforms are accelerated, and as result of progressive liberalization trade levels increase. It's too early to make an assessment of this "growth strategy" because we can expect strong resistance to deregulations by other stakeholders. Now, where the *National Strategic Special Zones* have been passed through parliament and have caught a tail wind through the Olympic Games, steadfast efforts are required to implement these measures so they can be awarded with an "A" in the future.

Prime Minister ABE understood 2014 as the decisive year of his "Abenomics"; we can however assume that the "three arrows" of the Japanese economy will continue to fly.



This report is based on a presentation given by the author on the same topic at the JDZB on 27 January 2014.

The Takenoko Fund for German-Japanese Student Exchange was established in 2005; sponsors and initiators were Daimler AG and its Japanese subsidiary Mitsubishi Fusô Bus & Truck Corporation. The Japanese-German Center Berlin was appointed as administrator of the Fund. The goal of the Fund was to deepen mutual understanding between the two countries and their cultures through the creation of a network of selected students. After a successful nine years, which has seen almost 1000 young people from 73 school groups participate in the program, the Takenoko Fund was discontinued for the time being at the end of 2013.

As one of the Japanese teachers involved in the program, I would like to present in the following report the huge importance and achievements of the Takenoko Fund for German-Japanese student exchange.

The Königin Charlotte Gymnasium in Stuttgart was one of the first schools to participate in the newly established Takenoko Fund in 2005 and then was fortunate enough to participate again in 2012. It was only through this financial support that many youth were given the opportunity to travel to Japan. Before departing on their travels, the students had spent many years learning Japanese and about the culture. In Japan students stayed with host families which provided them with insights into Japanese family and daily life, and the opportunity to practice their Japanese. The following visits to Nara und Kyôto brought them into contact with Japan's historical and cultural traditions. In the modern metropolitan Tôkyô they learned more about progressive Japan and its latest trends. Without exception, all the students reported on their return that the trip had been an unforgettable experience. They were deeply moved by the warm hospitality shown to them by Japanese host families, the time they spent together and the cultural uniqueness of the country. For many of the students the Japan exchange was both the goal and the crowning of their Japanese studies, and it became the concurrent motivation for them to deal with Japan more in the future. Almost all expressed their wish to visit Japan again.

The second Japan exchange program of the Königin Charlotte Gymnasium and supported by the Takenoko Fund was held in 2012 and coupled with a student project. The students developed a questionnaire for various schools and their host families about the effects of the great Tôhoku earthquake from 11 March 2011. This allowed them to deal more deeply with the topic in the

project-planning stage and led to well-informed dialogs with Japanese youth and adults, the survey execution and follow-up in the form of an exhibition.

With the sponsorship through the Fund, students were also taken on a tour of a truck manufacturing plant of Daimler AG, among other sites. The students were impressed by this organization and its precision labor processes. They appreciated even more after their visit that they were supported in their interest in Japan or Germany by a global organization.

The experiences gained in the student exchange continued to have considerable influence on the future life journeys of the students and their interest in Japan, and this was expressed in many different ways. The number of students studying Japanese increased among this group. And those studying other disciplines took up the opportunity to take a language course or spend a session abroad to maintain the relationship to Japan. There are also a few students interested in studying teaching Japanese as a foreign language, which was recently established at the University of Cologne.

In addition to my personal experiences from almost twenty years of student exchange with Japanese schools, I can reflect on the many discussions held with colleagues whose schools were sponsored by the Takenoko Fund and through my role as the former head of the Association for Japanese Teachers in Schools in German-speaking countries. The common goal held by all participants – and this includes all the Japanese schools that participated as well – to build a network of German and Japanese youth through the sponsorship of the Takenoko Fund, was completely achieved. The desire for mutual respect, recognition and exchange has been a complete success in many aspects.

The opportunity for direct encounters, an exceptional opportunity created by the Takenoko Fund, presented for many young students studying Japanese a major goal. The sponsorship of student exchange through the Takenoko Fund had a direct influence on the proliferation of Japanese language classes. In the future there will continue to be a need for sponsorship funds for German-Japanese student exchange. I sincerely hope for a suitable time to arrive that will allow the Takenoko Fund to resume its good work.

Claudia BECK-DEIM
Königin Charlotte Gymnasium, Stuttgart



Students from Königin Charlotte Gymnasium (Stuttgart) during their visit to Kyôto (April 2012)



Christmas concert with YACOB - Young Asian Chamber Orchestra Berlin - on 20 December 2013 at the JDZB. Young musicians from the only Asian orchestra in Germany perform works by Kubo Mayako and Benjamin BRITTEN, and conducted by FUNABASHI Yōsuke.



Opening of the exhibition "Out of Sight." Poems – Photographs by TAWADA Yōko and Delphine PARODI-NAGAOKA on 7 February 2014 at the JDZB with a reading by TAWADA Yōko.



Nadya DITTMAR, CHIBA Madoka, Anna DABROWSKI and UENO Tomoyuki (from left) at the opening of the joint exhibition "The Unconscious Law of Nature" at the JDZB on 10 December 2013.



Dr. Martin SCHULZ from co-organizer Fujitsu Research Institute welcomes guests to the symposium "New Markets for Germany and Japan in Southeast Asia" held on 11 February 2014 at the JDZB.



Information and individual advice on studying in Japan was available at the Study Japan! Fair 2014, held at the JDZB on 30 January 2014, and attended by 17 leading Japanese universities and research organizations.



Board of the Association for Social Science Research (Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung) at the 2013 annual meeting, held at the JDZB from 22 to 24 November 2013 with the topic "Inequality in Post-Growth Japan: Social Transformation during Economic and Demographic Stagnation".

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Conference: Germany – Japan – Afghanistan
C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin, Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS), Tôkyô
Date: September 2014, in Tôkyô

Workshop: Mega Earthquakes and Tsunami in Subduction Zones: Forecasting Possibilities and Implications for Risk Assessment
C: National Observatory of Athens; International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, Potsdam; International Natural Hazards Society, London
6–8 October 2014, in Rhodes (Greece)

Security Policy Workshop V
C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin
Date: To be confirmed

RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT

Conference: Design in Japan and Germany
C: German Embassy, Tôkyô
Dates: October 2014, in Tôkyô

Symposium: Renewable Energy as a Challenge for Politics, Law and Society
C: Japan Renewable Energy Foundation, Tôkyô; Waseda University, Tôkyô; Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin
Date: To be confirmed, in Tôkyô

DEMOGRAPHICS

Conference: Women in Leading Positions
C: German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin; Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs, Tôkyô; German Embassy, Tôkyô
20 May 2014, in Tôkyô

Workshop: Cultural Policy for Medium-sized Cities in Demographic Change
C: Kôbe University; Institute for Cultural Infrastructure Saxony, Görlitz; FU Berlin; Japan Foundation, Tôkyô
4–7 September 2014, in Berlin and Görlitz

Conference: Sustainable Urban Planning for Cities Undergoing Demographic Change
C: Meiji University, Tôkyô; Group Architecture and Urban Planning (GRAS), Dresden; Japan Foundation, Tôkyô
Date: To be confirmed, in Tôkyô

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Denkwerk (think tank) 2 “Japan in the 21st Century – Society in a State of Flux?”
C: FU Berlin; Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart
24 June 2014

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY

Conference: Independent Directors in Japan within the Evolving Asian Region
C: Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg; German-Japanese Lawyers’ Association, Hamburg
17–19 July 2014

Symposium: Smart and Social Cities
C: Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin
30 September 2014

Symposium: Entrepreneurship
Date: October 2014, in Tôkyô

VSJF Annual Meeting: Trust
C: German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF)
21–24 November 2014

Panel Discussion: Roboethics
C: University of Tsukuba
Date: To be confirmed

DIALOG OF CULTURES

European Policy Seminar
C: European Academy Otzenhausen; Center for German and European Studies at the University of Tôkyô Komaba (DESK)
15 September 2014

SPECIAL PROJECT

23rd German-Japanese Forum
C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tôkyô
4–5 November 2014

CULTURAL EVENTS

DAHLEM MUSICAL SOIREE

Concert with Marimba, Flute & Piano
21 March 2014, 7.30 pm

Violin Concert with KAKUNO Reiko und Daniel GAEDE
20 Mai 2014, 7.30 pm

Concert “Jôruri” (Bunraku Speech Song)
27 Juni 2014, 7.30 pm

Edo Music
12 September 2014, 7.30 pm

EXHIBITION

“Out of Sight.” Photographs and Poems by TAWADA Yôko and Delphine PARODI-NAGAOKA
Opening: 17 February 2014, 7 pm
On display from 18 February to 28 March 2014

“PHYSIS” Group exhibition of young artists
Opening: 10 April 2014, 7 pm
On display from 11 April to 30 May 2014

Music Images by AMADA Mitsuhiro
Opening: 10 June 2014, 7 pm
On display from 11 June to 29 August 2014

Dual Exhibition of HATA Yoko GUP-py & Harriet GROSS: GUP-py + Tall “ge schicht en (stories)”
Opening: 11 September 2014, 7 pm
On display from 12 Sept. to 30 October 2014

LECTURE

“Pictures of the Floating World – Mother and Child in Japanese Ukiyoe-Pictures” by KITAYAMA Osamu
28 April 2014

OTHERS

Boys’ Day: 27 March 2014

Open House: 21 June 2014

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
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



Since 2011 the Goethe Institute Villa Kamogawa in Kyôto has offered artists from Germany the opportunity to live and work in Japan via a three-month artist in residence program. This sojourn in Kyôto seeks to offer the artists new inspiration and artistic influences; artists are given the opportunity to come into direct contact with the cultural community there and develop new projects and establish and deepen contacts with Japanese cultural institutions and other creative people.

One well known resident in the Villa Kamogawa was Doris DOERRIE in autumn 2013. Ms DOERRIE works as a director of film and opera, she is also a writer and Professor at the Munich HFF (Hochschule für Fernsehen und Film) where she has held the chair of creative writing/script writing since 1997. She became a member of the JDZB Foundation Council in June 2013.

(Above photos © Goethe Institute Villa Kamogawa, Internet: <http://www.goethe.de/INS/JP/kam/>)



Round table discussion with German and Japanese artists "Kamogawa meets Berlin" held at the JDZB on 5 February 2014 (from left): SHIMABUKU Michihiro (performances, installations), Veronika KELLNDORFER (images, installations), Hans-Christian SCHINK (photographer), Claudius LÜNSTEDT (writer), Stefan GOLDMANN (composer, music producer, DJ), WADA Junko (dance, images) and Dr. Marcus HERNIG (Head of the Villa Kamogawa), who presented the artist in residence program and chaired the discussion. Their lively discussions dealt with personal experiences of artists in the other country, the influence of the host country's culture on their work, and the question of how their own work is received in the host country. Each German artist spent three months in the Villa Kamogawa in Kyôto in 2012, Ms WADA has lived and worked in Berlin since 1984, and Mr SHIMABUKU since the beginning of the 1990s. The discussions were then opened to the public to ask questions, and lively discussions continued at the following reception.

