

Japan – Observations of a New Enthusiast

Ambassador Dr. Hans Carl von WERTHERN

The German diplomatic service – at least in my eyes – does not offer a nicer and more interesting post than that of Ambassador to Japan. So I was delighted when I learned earlier this year that I was to be sent to Tōkyō. For me, this closes a circle in a way: after being appointed as Head of the Task Force “Germany in Japan 2005/2006” and then Head of the East Asia Division in the German Foreign Office in Berlin, I was sent as an envoy to Beijing feeling well prepared for the new task at hand. I probably don’t need to emphasize how well this new post suits me.

I have been in the post since the beginning of March, and it seems even longer to me. Meanwhile, I am no longer introduced as the “new”

German ambassador, and I feel quite at home. This is also very true for my family - my wife and the youngest of my three daughters accompanied me here. We were warmly received with open arms by the Japanese government and society, my many fellow ambassadors, the German community and the Embassy team.

With the various political delegation visits travelling in both directions, I was right in the middle of all the action. The most important were the visit of the German Foreign Minister STEINMEIER to Tōkyō and Hiroshima, and Prime Minister ABE’s visit to Germany shortly thereafter. These visits, and the recently announced German Chancellor’s tour of Japan next year, reconfirm my hope that there will be

greater interest in Japan in Germany’s politics and among the wider public than before.

After Hanoi and Beijing, Tōkyō is my third posting to the Far East. So much of it is familiar to me, yet there’s still more that is new. This starts with the language: I am trying very hard, but I’m not sure how far I’ll get. And even though, or perhaps because I am beginning to understand, the names of locations in Tōkyō such as “Kasumigaseki” or “Omotesandō” sound poetic to me, almost a little mystical to the ears. My long-standing fascination with Japanese cuisine continues to grow. This is not only due to the flavors and the consistently artistic presentation of food, but also the precision and attention given to the



The “Independent Directors in Japan and Other Major Asian Jurisdictions” conference held at the JDZB from 17 to 19 July 2014. In cooperation with the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Private Law and the German-Japanese Association for Jurists (both located in Hamburg). The conference was another event held in the “Corporate Governance” series.

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smallest detail: for example, when fried fish is served it includes half a kabosu, the small Japanese lime, in which a small incision is carved into the fruit so that when you press it the juice runs exactly where it should. In a way, this is an eloquent symbol for how the Japanese handles things and themselves.

I am discovering Japanese history, literature and art - now close up – with a new and different perspective. I am impressed by the orderliness, discipline and composure of the Japanese and yet still wonder about some of the craziness like the teenagers dressed up in Harajuku or the tiny dogs that are transported around Tôkyô in strollers similar to a child's prams. And there are questions to which I may never get an answer: why, for example do so many Japanese women wear sandals that are two sizes too small, and wear pumps that are two sizes too large for them?

But there's more than just the beautiful. My visit to the Fukushima nuclear power plant has indeed convinced me that all that was humanly possible was done to deal with the disaster of 2011. However, it also becomes clear that there are problems that - if at all – can only be solved in the course of decades to come. During my private tour of Tôhoku and driving along the east coast of Iwate Prefecture, I could see that many other effects of the earthquake and Tsunami are still yet to be dealt with. Economically, too, Tôhoku makes an ailing impression. Yet it shows the tenacity and determination of the people to start over again and again after such blows.

And then there was the night in the pilgrims' hostel Saikan on the Haguro-san, one of the three sacred mountains (Dewa Sanzan) in Yamagata Prefecture, where harmony with nature and with yourself are brought into

unison, so the idea that it was here where members of an ascetic cult were mummified alive through self-denial and fasting, is not quite as strange as when reading about it in the travel guide. Here nature and architecture are incredibly beautiful and harmonious, and this reconciles the view of many villages and towns, which do not quite deserve these two adjectives.

The most important thing for me is the exchange with the Japanese from all fields and age brackets. This starts with politicians and high officials and does not end with the school student who recognized me in the street as the German Ambassador and told me of his experiences in Germany. I am still filled with joy for the finals of the World Cup. In cooperation with the Embassy, the Goethe Institute organized a "public viewing". Since the local time of the game was at 4am on Monday morning, we were not sure whether the capacity of the Goethe Institute, which offers about 300 people, would even be filled. 900 people came, the great majority was young Japanese, many wearing jerseys of the German team, and they sang, cheered and celebrated with us at the end. That was for me very uplifting and more important than winning.

And so I look forward to the years that lie ahead of me in this country, with my refound enthusiasm.



Dear Readers!

This autumn, in the middle of the 20th anniversary year for the twinning partnership between Berlin and Tôkyô, we can look forward to many more celebratory events. We hope these events provide new impetus for both cities and lead to many encounters between its citizens, including those with the new governor of Tôkyô, MASUZOE Yôichi, who is planning to visit Berlin in October. This visit also confirms the optimism expressed by German Ambassador von WERTHERN in his article about a new momentum in Germany-Japan relations – also at the political level.

What applies to politics, already long applies to civil society: summer is traditionally a time of travel, and therefore in this issue we have dedicated more space than usual to the JDZB exchange programs. The goal of our programs is to promote not only a one-off exchange between participants, but to encourage program participants to continually pass on their knowledge to a wider audience - and above all, we want to strengthen and rejuvenate the German-Japanese network sustained by the exchange programs. This is why we will look to expand our work with alumni over the next few years.

I hope these program reports are just as inspiring to you as they are to us!

Dr. Friederike Bosse
Secretary General of the JDZB

jdzb echo

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

Publisher:
Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB)
Editor: Michael NIEMANN
Tel.: +49-30-839 07 186, E-Mail: niemann@jdzb.de

The jdzb echo can be downloaded as a pdf-document from the JDZB Homepage or subscribed to by E-Mail.

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This year Berlin and Tôkyô celebrate the 20th anniversary of their twinning partnership. The JDZB is organising two symposia in the fall, one on “Entrepreneurship” in Tôkyô, and the other on “Smart and Social Cities” in Berlin. Both symposia are planned to be held in cooperation with the Tôkyô Metropolitan Government and the Senate of Berlin. The following is an interview with Melanie BÄHR, Managing Director of the Berlin Partner for Economics and Technology Ltd.

Since May 1994 the cities of Berlin and Tôkyô are connected via a twinning program. How important is this, and what sort of collaborations are included?

The mutual interest in economic integration, knowledge transfer and cultural exchange is of great importance to both cities. The metropolitan cities of Tôkyô and Berlin have similar complex challenges that they must deal with: increasing urbanization, scarcity of resources, the impact of an aging population and climate change. During the Asia-Pacific Weeks, which will be held in Berlin in 2015, we will offer, for example, a forum for discussions on the topic of Smart Cities. Another highlight planned for this year is the Berlin Week in Tôkyô: this will link the arts scenes in both cities as part of our twinning anniversary.

In addition, Berlin and Tôkyô are interlinked with their focal issues at international trade fairs: for example, in May we presented Berlin as a location for investment at BIOtech Japan. According to a study done by the major Japanese bank Mizuho, Berlin-Brandenburg is one of the most important regions in the European biotech cluster. And in February this year, the Berlin Agency for Electromobility eMO presented its activities and pilot projects in electric mobility in the Berlin region at the 6th German-Japanese Environmental Dialogue Forum in Japan.

A planned German-Japanese symposium with participants from both cities will focus on “Entrepreneurship”: It’s about developing an inventory of start-ups in Berlin and Tôkyô and of networks and venture capital. How important are start-up companies for Berlin and for its economy?

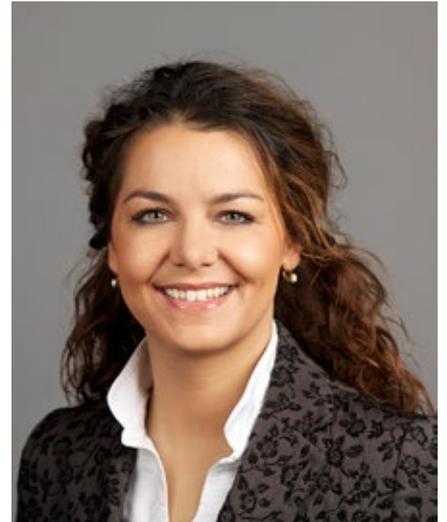
Berlin is a hub for start-ups: every twelve

minutes a new business is established here. So Berlin is well above the national average. The perfect framework for start-ups includes the close links between industry and academia in Berlin. Particularly dynamic is the development of start-ups in the digital economy and in the life sciences. Start-ups create jobs and bring international capital to Berlin. To further support this development, a start-up unit is currently being established in Berlin that will offer start-ups a central point of contact for the future. The coordinating body of this unit is based in the Berlin Partner for Economics and Technology.

An inaugural “Berlin Innovation Meetup” was held in May in Tôkyô, in which Berlin-based start-ups introduced themselves and sought contact with Japanese partners. Berlin Partner has supported this – what are some of your expectations for the future? At the “Berlin Innovation Meetup” we presented the economic and technology offerings of Berlin. We want to convince companies and venture capitalists about choosing Berlin in all its facets as a location for investment the future. It is very important, especially for start-ups, to develop international networks early on. We will assist with trade missions and events.

The second German-Japanese Symposium will have the theme “Smart and Social City”. What is meant by the concept of a “Smart City”, and how relevant is it for Berlin?

The “Smart City” stands for all high tech and organizational concepts that seek to equip modern cities for the major challenges of the future. Smart City solutions will respond to climate and demographic changes and seek to increase the attractiveness of urban spaces. The focus, for



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example, is on infrastructural innovation, the sustainable use of resources and the reduction of emissions. Berlin has taken a leading role in Europe. Throughout the city you can see developments and projects that smart technologies and structures produce: for example, on the EUREF campus in Schöneberg ward where they are utilizing energy-efficient buildings and renewable energy through a “Smart Grid” a virtually CO₂ neutral campus will be built by 2018. And another example from the health care industry: the company Biotronik has developed the home monitoring system in the capital city which will provide global telemedical care for cardiac patients.

Do the “Smart City” areas – or clusters – reflect Berlin’s innovation capability and competence in a special way?

The Smart City is a cluster-wide field of the future and the five clusters found in Berlin and Brandenburg include energy technology, transport | mobility | logistics, information and communication technology | media | creative industries, photonics and the health industries. In the city, some 40 projects and over 300 protagonists are working to develop and implement Smart City concepts. E-Mobility here plays a key role. The Berlin region is now favourably regarded as a role model and shall become the European leading metropolis in the coming years.

Children's Rights in Japan and Germany

Discussions on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
Prof. Jörg MAYWALD, Managing Director of the German League for the Child, Honorary Professor at Potsdam School for Applied Sciences

Japan, similar to Germany, has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and made a commitment to ensure the rights contained in this Convention offer protection, promotion and inclusion for every living child in Japan. But what about the implementation of children's rights in practice? Where are the problems areas and what solutions are available?

On 2 June 2014, at an alumni event for participants of German-Japanese Youth Exchange programs at the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), NISHINO Hiroyuki presented the City of Kawasaki's Kodomo Yumepark (Children Dream Park), of which he is co-founder and leader. Mr. NISHINO reported that a disturbingly high number of children and young people throughout Japan feel under "constant stress". School absenteeism (truancy), violence and bullying (particularly in schools), a high suicide rate as well as the phenomenon of *hikikomori* (young people who lock themselves in their rooms and reduce social contact to a minimum) are the result.

The City of Kawasaki recognized these problems and the consequent negative effects for the whole society. In 2000, the City Council passed the Kawasaki City Ordinance on the Rights of a Child, which was drafted in collaboration with children, youth and adults. The Ordinance outlined in practice the rights of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Three years later, the Kawasaki City Kodomo Yumepark opened its doors.

The services of the park are built on three pillars: (1) the seat of the Children's Council of the City of Kawasaki, (2) adventure playground for all interested children, (3) a place to hang out (free space) for truant children and adolescents. In addition, parents receive information and advice when needed. Alone in 2013, around 93,000 visitors from different age groups were counted. The operation was summarized by Mr. Nishino as follows: "It is not about forcing children and

young people into existing structures, but rather to bring closer structures or frameworks into the lives of children and young people."

Following the lecture, in my role as Speaker for the National Coalition Germany - Network to Implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, I commented from a German perspective on the points raised by Mr. NISHINO. He spoke of the high achievement expectations children and young people are exposed to not only in their families, but also in the early years at educational institutions and within society in highly industrialized countries. This leads to a significant share of young people refusing to perform and withdrawing. We need to ask the question, in view of the packed activity schedules and against a background of a cognitively narrow education, are the rights (contained in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) upheld and does each child have sufficient time for rest, leisure, play and recreation, as well as for artistic/creative pursuits.

I think, the approach taken in Kawasaki is impressive because the project is based on a holistic perspective of education, which includes craft and creative pursuits,

sporting, musical and social-emotional aspects. The project makes it clear that for children to grow up healthy they need space in which they can make their own experiences and without the strict rules of adults.

Mr. NISHINO reported on the amazing foresight of the declaration presented by the children in the city of Kawasaki to the adults who had been involved in the committee for the development of the Ordinance of the Rights of a Child. This declaration states: "Please be a happy adult first. If you're not happy adults, we children and youth can't be either. If adults are not happy, abuse or physical punishment can result. In the city's Ordinance of the Rights of a Child it is stated that children and youth should grow up surrounded by love, but our desire is that within our families, schools and social circles, adults should be happy first. Only then will we children and youth live in safety and security."

The event closed with discussions of how the principles of the Kawasaki City Kodomo Yumepark could be realized elsewhere, and whether it was necessary that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be supplemented with a right for a child to have a healthy environment, and how to win over parents to support the rights of their children. Overall, the event was very inspiring and there was a clear call to continue talks in the future.



NISHINO Hiroyuki and Prof. Dr. Jörg MAYWALD

Participating in the Junior Experts Exchange Program (JEX) 2014

Prof. YAMAMOTO Yôhei, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Tsukuba University

This year's study tour to Germany was held from June 26 to July 8. The study tour is part of the exchange program for Junior Experts from Germany and Japan. Eight Japanese experts participated in this year's program, each selected via a competitive process; we visited three universities, eight research institutes and two companies. The theme was "Nanotechnology and Material Sciences (focus: carbon nanotubes [CNT], and graphene)".

At the beginning of our visit we went to Munich where we were introduced to the research activities of the Comprehensive Pneumology Center of Ludwig-Maximilians-University and the Technical University of Munich. At the Deutsches Museum, we received an overview of the development of modern technology in Germany. We then attended a very relaxing classical concert at the Munich Philharmonic. On the first Sunday of our visit we were treated to the famous Bavarian Weisswurst (white sausages); we visited the Munich Residence and an art museum. In the evening we said farewell to Munich and traveled on to Bonn.

Over the following days we had a very busy schedule. Each day we visited up to three institutions and in the evenings we traveled to the next location. We were given an overview of the German science/academic system at the Federal Ministry for Education and Research. We visited the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz and gained insights into its organization and activities. When we arrived in Mannheim, we visited BASF, Germany's largest chemical company. After a general introduction we were taken on a guided bus tour of the plant. In the afternoon BASF employees and the Japanese researchers held discussions and exchanged information. In the evening, the bus drove us to Stuttgart, where on the following day we listened to presentations at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (IPA). Prof. Sigmar ROTH, formerly of the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, gave a presentation on graphene. We then flew by plane to Dresden where Dr. Susanne DÖRFLER from the Fraunhofer Institute (JEX alumna) took us on a tour of the historic

old town. The schedule for the next day included visits to the Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research (IFW), the Technical University of Dresden and the Fraunhofer Institute for Material and Beam Technology (IWS, laser and surface technology). We then caught the train to Berlin, our final destination. There, we first visited the Paul Drude Institute for Solid State Electronics (PDI), where they introduced us to research on graphene growth. Divided into two groups, we visited BESSY II - Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin (HZB) and Bruker Nano Ltd. In the evening we met for dinner with the German JEX alumni at the Japanese restaurant "Daruma".

The Japanese participants and German alumni (who had visited Japan in autumn 2013) met the next day at the JDZB for a joint workshop. We were welcomed by Deputy Secretary-General of the JDZB, SAKATO Masaru, and Mr. UMEDA from the Japanese Embassy in Germany. We then listened to two presentations about recent JEX-study tours. All participants reported on their research, and at the end there was a discussion about the exchange program itself.

Sunday was a free day in Berlin and we took a Japanese guided city tour. We went for a ride on Segway scooters around Tempelhof Park and enjoyed a picnic there. On the following day, the last of our visit, we were given an overview of the activities of the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society (MPG FHI). After

lunch and some last minute shopping we went to Tegel Airport for the return flight via Düsseldorf.

This densely packed study tour was very substantial and quite unlike any other. Despite the busy schedule, we learned a great deal at each of the institutions we visited. The cultural events and weekend visits in Munich and Berlin were great fun. Moreover, it was important that discussions were held not only with the German experts but also between the Japanese participants. I hope that these meetings will lead to joint research between both Japan and Germany as well as within Japan.

It was very noticeable how the Japanese and German participants each described as outstanding the institutions they had visited in the other country. Clearly, Germany and Japan are carrying out cutting-edge international research in these fields.

Finally, I would like to thank sincerely Tatjana WONNEBERG und Mai RAPSCH from the JDZB for planning and organizing the program. From the selection of institutions we visited, to the travel, transfers and accommodation; the program was seamlessly organized without any inconvenience to the participants, and this was solely due to the efforts of these two people. I would also like to thank sincerely Prof. Dr. INOUE Shigeyoshi of the TU Berlin, who accompanied us on this trip and provided us with numerous details about the research sites in Germany. Finally, a closing remark: JEX is great!



Memorial photo at the Dresden Zwinger: (from left) OGAWA Shimpei (Mitsubishi Electric), NORIMATSU Wataru (Nagoya University), MORIKAWA Sei (Tôkyô University), TONOUCHI Noriyuki (NEC), NIKAWA Hidefumi (HONDA), Mai RAPSCH (JDZB), Susanne DÖRFLER (TU Dresden), YAMAMOTO Yôhei (Tsukuba University), OGAWA Shûichi (Tôhoku University), MURAYAMA Shûhei (National Institute of Radiological Sciences)



Ambassador NAKANE Takeshi welcomes the participants to the German-Japanese Energy Forum held at the Embassy of Japan on 25 June 2014. Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe BECKMEYER (German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy) also attended the Forum that introduced and discussed the progress of the energy revolution in Germany and the Japanese-German cooperation in the energy sector.



Denkwerk II "Japan in the 21st Century – Society in Upheaval?" at the JDZB on 24 June 2014. This collaborative project is supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation in cooperation with the Japan Studies Center of the Freie Universität Berlin and two high schools in Berlin, and seeks to promote project partnerships between academics, teachers and students.



128th Dahlem Musical Soiree: "The Power of Voices" Jôruri chants from Bunraku Theater held at the JDZB on 27 June 2014 with the traditional song reciter TAKEMOTO Chitosedayû and the Shamisen player TOYOZAWA Tomisuke, two successful musicians from the National Bunraku-Theater Ôsaka, and members of the ensemble *Koden no kai*.



New at the Open House on 21 June 2014: *Furoshiki* (traditional cloth artfully wrapped as packaging). In addition Japanese culture to experience on the day, this year we also introduced a panel discussion (topic: energy), *Bonseki* (miniature landscape on a tray) and the interactive sound installation "Humming Dialog" by FUKUNAGA Atsushi. The well-celebrated finale was a concert by Leonardo ETO (Taiko) and BUDGIE (drums).



Children's guided tour of the exhibition of music-themed pictures by AMADA Mitsuhiro. In his pictures musicians are overwhelmingly portrayed as cat musician full of character that allow the viewer to draw strong comparisons with living musicians. The exhibition was on display at the JDZB from 11 June to 15 August 2014.



Presentation by HIRAMATSU Reiji: "Hommage à Monet" Japonica and Nihonga on 12 June 2014 at the JDZB. The artist explained some of his works and the factors that influenced him, as well as the use of materials, painting utensils and techniques in the Japanese nihonga painting style – also a good peak into his studio.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Conference: Afghanistan – Lessons Learnt and the Road Ahead

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin, Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS), Tōkyō 24–25 September 2014, in Tōkyō

Workshop: Mega Earthquakes and Tsunami in Subduction Zones: Forecasting Possibilities and Implications for Risk Assessment

C: National Observatory Athens; International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, Potsdam; International Natural Hazards Society, London; European Geosciences Union, Munich 6–8 October 2014, in Rhodes (Greece)

German-Japanese Workshop on Security Issues V

C: Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) at the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA), Tōkyō (tbc) Date: December 2014

DEMOGRAPHICS

Symposium: Cultural Policies as Regeneration Strategies for the Demographic Change in Medium-sized Cities – Germany, mid-Europe and Japan in Dialog

C: Kōbe University; Institute for Cultural Infrastructure Saxony, Görlitz; FU Berlin; Japan Foundation, Tōkyō 4–7 September 2014, in Berlin and Görlitz

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Symposium: Health Prevention for Children

C: Chiba University; Charité, Berlin 1 December 2014

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY

Symposium: Supporting Entrepreneurs – Start-Ups in Berlin and Tōkyō

C: Tōkyō Metropolitan Government; State of Berlin 19 September 2014, in Tōkyō

Symposium: Scaling the Nation-State – Religion, Language and Ethnicity in Contemporary Japan and Germany

C: Marburg University; Dokkyo University, Tōkyō; Japan Association for Asian Studies, Tōkyō; German Association for Asian Studies, Hamburg 10–11 October 2014

Symposium: Smart and Social Cities

C: Tōkyō Metropolitan Government; Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin 28 October 2014

VSJF Annual Meeting: Trust and Mistrust

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

DIALOG OF CULTURES

European Policy Seminar

C: European Academy Otzenhausen; Center for German and European Studies at the University of Tōkyō Komaba (DESK) 15–16 September 2014

SPECIAL PROJECT

23rd German-Japanese Forum

C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tōkyō 5–6 November 2014

CULTURAL EVENTS

DAHLEM MUSICAL SOIREE

The Art of Subtle Sound – Concert with Koto and Shamisen music from Edo (Tōkyō) at around 1800

C: Japanese Cultural Institute, Cologne 12 September 2014, 7 pm

Art Meets Music: Concert (Old Music) with AOKI Hiroya (Countertenor), TAKAHASHI Asuka (Recorder) and KIM Ilhae (Cembalo)

12 November 2014, 6.30 pm (At the opening of the exhibition “Between the Shadows” by SHIKATA/SEITZ)

Christmas Concert

mid-December 2014, 7.30 pm

EXHIBITION

Dual Exhibition of GUP-py & Harriet GROB “ge schicht et”

Opening: 11 September 2014, 7 pm On display from 12 Sept. to 30 October 2014

“Thinking of Energy – From the Experience of Fukushima” by the group of young artists “DanDans”

Venue: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin On display from 17 Oct. to 13 Nov. 2014

“Between the Shadows” Paintings and Sculptures by SHIKATA Nanako and Stefan SEITZ

Opening: 12 November 2014, 6.30 pm, with concert (Art Meets Music) On display from 13 Nov. 2014 to 16 Jan. 2015

LECTURE

Prof. Dr. NARAOKA Sōichi: The Fate of the Japanese Interned in the First World War in Germany

C: German-Japanese Society Berlin; Japanese Cultural Institute, Cologne (The Japan Foundation) 2 September 2014, 6.30 pm

HIRANO Keiko: Katari – The Japanese Art of Recitation

18 November 2014, 7 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
- 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

Registration for the Dahlem Musical Soirees will open close to the date

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

! NEW CALLIGRAPHY COURSE !

The JDZB offers Japanese language courses and this coming fall it will also offer a calligraphy course. Previous knowledge is not required; even those who have never studied the Japanese language can participate.

The course will start on 3 September 2014 and take place Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Participants will receive individual instruction allowing each student to decide which evening course they would like to attend and not have to turn up each week.

One course costs 10 Euro, and a pack of 10 courses costs 90 Euro (70 Euro for concession card holders). A free sample hour is also available.

For further information, please see: www.jdzb.de/japanischkurse/Kurse



Many articles about the Energy Revolution in Germany were published after the study tour for Japanese journalists on the topic "Germany and Europe Today" in March 2014.



The JDZB offers German-Japanese Exchange programs for various groups. These include:

A two-week bilateral specialists program; on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and supported on the Japanese side by the Ministry for Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology:

- Study tour for specialists working in the field of children and youth assistance
- Exchange program for young employees and trainees
- Exchange program for young volunteers working in youth services

The German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum, a program where German and Japanese young executives attend a Summer School and visit institutions and discuss topics relevant to both countries.

The Junior Experts Exchange Program is where young German and Japanese scientists are given the opportunity to learn more about a field of research in the other country; the program is supported by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the German Ministry for Education and Research. (Report page 5).

There are two programs with journalists by the Robert Bosch Foundation involving Japan. The Foundation leads study tours for Japanese journalists to Germany and Europe as well as study tours for German journalists to Japan. The JDZB is heavily involved in the planning and implementation of the first program; it has an advisory function for the other program.



Young Employees 2013: Weekend seminar in Fürstenberg, presentation of results of the group discussion on "Work-Life-Balance".



Young Volunteer 2013: Japanese and German participants at the joint weekend seminar in Fürstenberg.



Specialists of Children and Youth Assistance 2014: German specialists delegation A2 at the preparatory seminar at the JDZB.