

## Germany and Japan: Same Challenges, Different Solutions

Gerhard WIESHEU, Chairman of the JDZB Foundation Council

Thanks to a flexible labor market and a low debt, the German economy has emerged through the financial market crisis without major damage. In May 2015, the unemployment rate, based on calculations of the International Labour Organisation, was at 4.6%, its lowest level since 1991, and the number of job vacancies reached more than 570,000, setting a new record since German reunification. In Japan, the economic situation has only improved since the appointment of Prime Minister ABE Shinzō in December 2012. As a result, the measures called Abenomics had a marked effect in lowering the Japanese exchange rate and creating an economic upswing in the national economy. Against this background, corporate earnings in Japan reported an unusually sharp rise of

more than 30% from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2014 – in relation to gross domestic product, corporate profits reached a record high of more than 14%.

A high level of profitability of companies is usually the decisive precondition for a sustained recovery because profitable businesses invest and thus create jobs. In Japan, and despite a shrinking labor force, more than a million new jobs have been created since December 2012, and accordingly the unemployment rate fell to 3.3%, its lowest level since 1997. Against this background, the growth prospects for the Japanese economy can be described as very positive. However, Japan is slowly running out of workers, with an average

ratio of 1.19 available vacancies per applicant in May 2015 – a value last reached in 1992 in the *Heisei* boom. In accordance with economic theory, increasing labor shortages creates a turnaround in wages which in December 2012 had sunk by 1.6%, however, they rose again in May 2015 by 1.0%. Increasing labor shortage is one of the challenges and consequences of an aging Japanese society.

Interestingly, the Japanese government's reaction was not to increase levels of immigration of foreign workers, but to rely on robots to replace human labor. Experience shows that it will take several years for the increased use of robots to be reflected in the national productivity statistics. It was already as early as 1987,



Dr. Stefanie HUBIG, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, welcomed the participants of the symposium “Antitrust Compliance for Japanese and German Companies” on 15 June 2015 at the JDZB, which was conducted in cooperation with the German-Japanese Association of Jurists.

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at the time when the renowned economic growth researcher Robert Solow revealed how the computer age was visible everywhere in the information technology revolution in the US, but not in productivity statistics. It was not until the early 1990s, that the statistics in the United States showed a significant acceleration in productivity. Thus, there are good chances that the growth revival of the Japanese economy will soon find its expression in solidly increasing productivity results.

The high national debt and the problems associated with an aging society and rising social welfare costs are the second major challenge faced by the Japanese government. Thus, the Japanese government debt is expected to rise this year to 246% of gross domestic product. Great Britain was able to reduce a similarly high public debt over a period of 100 years after the Napoleonic Wars. A return to solid economic growth combined with a normalization of inflation to about 2% should lead the Japanese government to gradually reduce the national debt. For this purpose, however, artificially-kept low interest rates over a long period are a necessity to reduce the interest burden on the Japanese government. In addition, the Japanese government may at any time significantly reduce the national debt by a one-time property tax, since the outstanding debt is held mainly by residents. Another option is to increase tax on income earned through interest.

Due to the low interest rates and a cautious fiscal policy, Germany was able to reduce its national debt as calculated by the International Monetary Fund of 79% of GDP in 2012 to about 69% of GDP this year. However Germany is also facing a rapidly aging society and rising social welfare costs, so that for the explicit public debt an implicit government debt of about 160% of GDP must be still added as future government obligations to pensioners and the sick, who are not covered by reserves. Thus, Germany is dependent on high economic growth in the future,

which is likely to be more difficult to achieve in the current environment of increasing labor shortages. Nevertheless, labor shortages will be alleviated by increasing immigration. Last year more than 1.2 million people moved to Germany, while only about 800,000 moved away. Rates of immigration to Germany were only higher in 1992. A steady flow of new migrants will not be enough to ensure sustainable high economic growth in Germany. Germany should follow the example of Japan and promote the increased use of robots across all economic sectors.

Furthermore, the Japanese government is trying to increase the yield of pension funds and insurance through broader diversification and internationalization of financial assets. Higher income generated abroad can thereby be an important income component for many Japanese retirees, if state benefits have to be decreased in the future. Unfortunately, the debate in Germany about an optimal system of savings and increasing pension fund demands is only just beginning.

In summary it can be said that both countries are facing major demographic challenges in the future and currently they have chosen different ways to meet these challenges. Against this background it is very important that both countries remain in close contact and learn from each other.



Gerhard WIESHEU is a partner of B. Metzler seel. Sohn & Co. Holding AG in Frankfurt/Main (Photo © Andreas SCHÖTTKE)

Dear Readers!

In the last *jdzb echo* our President Ambassador TAKASHIMA and Vice President NAB have given their farewells. In the meantime, our new leaders have taken up their positions with Ambassador SHINYO Takahiro as the President, Prof. Werner PASCHA as Vice President and Gerhard WIESHEU as Chair of the Foundation Council and supporting us with words and deeds.

Gerhard WIESHEU notes in his main article a number of issues in which he wants greater exchange between Japan and Germany. We deal with many of these in our work, for example, the consequences of demographic change.

In the autumn we are planning conferences on "Women in science" and "Good Work for Families" – both in Japan. And next year the topic of immigration will be on the agenda, an issue in which both countries – beyond all their differences – have a lot of similar questions.

Also in the fall, there is another highlight of our anniversary celebrations this year: the best-selling author YOSHIMOTO Banana is coming to Berlin, and will read from her books and hold discussions with readers and students. Master SHIMURA Fukumi, an expert in weaving and dyeing, will not only display her art in Berlin, but also give a presentation and introduce the techniques. With these events the *JDZB* is able to nicely complement the kimono exhibition being held in the Berlin Bröhan Museum, and at the same time bring together those people interested in Japanese culture – literally.

Dr. Friederike Bosse  
JDZB Secretary General

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Tue + Wed 12 noon–6 pm; Thu 12 noon–6 pm

In cooperation with the Berlin International Literature Festival (ILB) promotional organization, the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) has invited authors YOSHIMOTO Banana and ONO Masatsugu (Akutagawa Award 2015) to Berlin on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Literature Festival held 9–19 September this year. ONO Masatsugu's literature event will be held within the festival on 13 September, whereas YOSHIMOTO Banana's literature event will be held within the festival on 15 September, with a further event on 16 September at the JDZB. Ms YOSHIMOTO became an overnight best-selling author when her novel *Kitchen*, written while waitressing in a restaurant after graduating from university, was published in 1988. Thereafter, the publishing world was witness to the "Banana Yoshimoto Phenomenon" as her numerous published works were snapped up by young female fans in particular. Almost 30 years later, Ms YOSHIMOTO's popularity extends to an overseas audience and her works have been published in translation in more than 30 countries. Banana YOSHIMOTO is these days most definitely established as an internationally acclaimed Japanese author. We asked Ms YOSHIMOTO about her thoughts on Germany as she prepares for her visit here.

*Ms YOSHIMOTO, what sort of image do you have of Germany? What are your thoughts as you prepare for your trip in mid September?*

Germany is still an unknown country for me but a friend of mine, NARA Yoshitomo, has lived there so it holds a certain affection. I also have the impression of Germany being a broad-minded country when it comes to art. I can't stay for more than 3 days this time so I doubt I will have time to scratch more than the surface but I am so looking forward to the trip.

*Your works have been published in translation in countries all over the world and have developed an extensive fan base not only in Japan but internationally, too. What would you say is the reason for this? And are there any differences on a national basis in the reading habits and reactions to your books between the countries of Asia, Europe ("Latin" countries and others, too), the USA, etc.? How about the tendencies of your German readers?*

I'm still not familiar with German readers either.

My works soothe the sensibilities that one usually leaves behind in the humdrum of our everyday lives so I think they are comforting somehow. In particular, it is my wish to write beautiful books which will become something that people who feel loneliness or isolation can depend upon. It's probably because this sort of thing is common the world over that my readership is not limited by national borders.

I would imagine that my readers in Asia have a particular understanding for the de-

scriptions of nature in my books because of the similarity in climate.

*It appears that you often visit the beautiful beaches and island resorts of the South Seas – do you find a lot of inspiration for your novels during such trips? Can you imagine finding inspiration for your work in Germany, which is rather a contrast?*

These are mostly places I visit for case studies and I find I rarely slow down enough for inspiration to creep in while I'm working. Ordinarily, the things that appear in my novels don't come at all from where you would expect and it can be that an airport scene of when I've been exhausted and sleepy just suddenly comes floating in when I'm writing a novel. So I don't think I'm held back by waiting for inspiration for my work to strike no matter where I am. The first time I visit a country, my mood and feelings are always more open so I'm really looking forward to my trip to Germany.

*What are the pros and cons of suddenly becoming a best-selling author in your twenties? What are your thoughts now when you look back on the last almost 30 years? What sort of novels would you like to write from this point onwards?*

One advantage was having the money to make your own experiences at a young age. A disadvantage was that it was hard to deal with the prying of the press that fame brought with it. Another thing was that the impression that I had a lot of money put a strain on my personal relationships. Novelists don't earn that much compared to top



Photo © SAWA Fumiya

business people or property tycoons but there is the impression in Japan in particular that we are as rich as famous celebrities. I've always written novels and I will continue to do so from this point onwards. I want to continue to write in the comforting style of the period up to now and to be a factor in people's voyages of self-discovery.

*In what ways has becoming a mother had an influence on your works (abstract side of things) and way of working (tangible side of things)?*

It has become harder for me to simply kill off a character in my books. And I think I write now with a deeper affection and with more patience. On the tangible side of things, I find I somehow have less time and have to work piecemeal, making it very difficult to concentrate.

*What do you do when you've got a deadline to meet and have to write but can't? Or does it never come to that? Do you have a standard breakthrough method or trick for refreshing yourself mentally?*

I've never been unable to write. If I'd had periods where I was unable to write, I probably wouldn't have been able to make it as a professional in this business for the last 30 years. If I need a mental break, I carefully prepare some vegetable or miso soup. Watching a movie is also good but moving the hands while cooking seems to work really well. As for going for a walk, in my case I find myself thinking even more about my work so it's not an effective method for me.

**The Denkwerk (Think Tank) Project**  
**Lorenz DENNINGER, MA, Researcher**  
**East Asian Studies, Japanese Studies, Freie Universität Berlin**

On 30 June 2015 the third and final annual conference of the Denkwerk (think tank) project “Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – Changing Society?” took place at the Japanese-German Center Berlin. The conference was again the final note and highlight of the third successful Denkwerk project year. Similar to the previous two years, high school students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade gave short presentations about their Japan-related project topics.

Launched and sponsored by the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Denkwerk program pursues the goal of better linking together schools and universities in order to ease the transition to university life of high school students. The Japan-related Denkwerk project at the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin was initiated, designed and led by Prof. Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT, Head of Japanese Politics and Economics at the university. Project partners were the two Berlin schools Canisius College and Melanchthon School and the JDZB. The FU’s Japan-Denkwerk has now come to a successful close in the summer of 2015 with the expiry of its maximum delivery time.

The FU’s Japan-Denkwerk pursued two main objectives: teaching Japan-related expertise and teaching research methodologies. At the heart of the project was cooperation between students in the 11th grade and students of Japan Studies of the FU Berlin, who acted as tutors and provided extensive assistance. In three years, 34 students and 15 student tutors participated in the project. The participating students worked individually or in teams, supported by the tutors, to develop presentations or posters on a chosen topic related to Japan. Further support was given to the project teams by the academic staff of the FU’s Japan Studies Department. Thus, throughout the three years, students were able to develop projects at a high level on a wide variety of Japan-related issues. One student team presented their project at the FU’s Science Night in 2013 in front of an interested audience.

The project goal to develop networks between school and university was successful at many different levels. In addition to regular meetings held between students and tutors, there were a number of special events. The first highlight in each year of the project was the “campus day” held each autumn. This is when the participating students, visited the FU Berlin for a day. Japan Studies academics gave an overview of their expertise in short lectures, which were then dealt with in more details by the students afterwards. University students gave them a tour of the campus, including a visit to the Japan Studies library and the cafeteria, giving the students an opportunity to learn more about university life firsthand.

In winter students and tutors were given the chance to increase their knowledge of Japan by attending a series of lectures, which were also held at the Japanese Embassy. In an annual tour of the Berlin State Library, the students were given not only a tour of Germany’s largest collection of literature on Japan but also an introduction to Japan-related research opportunities and methodologies by a librarian of the East Asia Department.

The climax and conclusion of each project year is always the final conference held at the JDZB where the students are introduced to a real conference setting. The students

presented the results of their research in short presentations. This was followed by lectures on Japan by leading academics. It was a special experience for many to be seated with the panel and present their own research findings by poster or via a PowerPoint presentation and discuss the results with academics and students of the Free University and special guest speakers while your own teacher, classmates and school executive were looking on, and it has fostered their interest in studying at university.

The FU’s Japan-Denkwerk was a great success. The participating students were able to mediate important knowledge about Japan. They learned firsthand how to deal with a topic at the university level. Specifically, they learned how to start by formulating a meaningful question, and then preparing an academic project step by step. It was a valuable experience for the university students to reverse roles from being learners to teachers. This gave them a sense of responsibility and allowed them a fresh look at their own field of study.

I would like to thank all the project partners and supporting institutions: the Robert Bosch Foundation for the sponsorship and thus making the project happen; Canisius College and Melanchthon School, especially the teachers Inessa KEILBACH and Maya BERNDT for their indispensable work in organising it; the Japanese Embassy; the Berlin State Library, and of course the Japanese-German Center Berlin.



## Participation in the Junior Experts Exchange Program, 25 June until 7 July 2015

Dr. SAKAI Kyōsuke

Hokkaidō University, Research Institute for Electronic Science

The German-Japanese exchange program for junior experts looks back on more than 15-years of history. This year the topic was “Renewable Energies (focus: energy)”. The six Japanese participants led diverse discussions, based on their respective areas of expertise.

We were surprised by the long-term objective: “By 2050, we will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 80 % as compared to 1990.” The widespread recognition of this goal and the careful planning for its implementation were most impressive.

The strategy is closely developed and clearly formulated. In simple terms it is based on three pillars: (1) energy savings; (2) energy efficiency and (3) introduction of renewable energies. Here, the energy consumption is reduced by half and the share of renewable energy increases.

Germany has harsh winters, so that in addition to electricity and motor fuels, heat generation is a major factor of energy consumption. Therefore, building insulation (energy saving) is intensified and the switch to cogeneration (combined heat and power generation) in power plants (energy efficiency) is encouraged. It was also interesting how low energy efficiency of cars and buses, the use of bicycles, electric vehicles and trams are promoted in the cities. The economic burden of this change was evaluated. They should be only about half as large as the continued use of fossil fuels.

Research activities also revealed plans that had been carefully prepared. In distributing research budget for energy technologies, those which flow investments rapidly and extensively back to society are preferred. In applied research there is the assumption of collaborative research activities with companies, and a return of funds to the company was clearly evident. In the technologies of the future, however, there are special budgets allocated for foundation research. Problem solving and foundation research are clearly separated in a budget.

At the Fraunhofer Institute, a representative of applied research works with a practical mindset. The research topics are directly related to product development, e.g., in the investigations to increase earnings

from mass production lines for solar cells or on the damage caused to the foundations of offshore wind turbines by waves. Such research is essential for technological maturation, but too expensive for a single institution, so government funding is allocated. Japan can learn from this system of having all those involved tackling tasks together. Clear, long-term objectives and common strategies for implementation, are undoubtedly the basis of this cooperation system.

We also visited non-profit organizations focused on energy policies, electrical power utilities and places of urban renewal. Regionally based, non-profit organizations are setting the pace in the process of creating a sustainable society; they currently take on the task of advisory functions to the EU, Federal Government and municipal authorities, and have become the mediator between technology and society. On the basis of their suggestions about “urban renewal” municipalities are working closely together with all stakeholders. It became clear during the visits that they are all grounded in the idea of environmental sustainability and increasing the well-being of the population.

In Germany, electrical power grids and electricity producers are separated. For the electricity suppliers who are responsible for the eastern part of Germany, the share of renewables has reached 42% (2014). The

enthusiasm of a manager who firmly asserted with regard to the further increasing share of renewable energies in the future that even at 80% a stable usage is possible, clearly demonstrated to me that it is necessary to separate power suppliers and power producers in Japan as well.

Just like every other year, this year’s program was densely packed and we visited institutions and companies across seven cities: the new development areas surrounding Freiburg and Heidelberg, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, six universities and research institutions, two non-profit organizations for environmental energy, Volkswagen AG and the grid operator 50Hertz. We were warmly welcomed everywhere. Our German hosts prepared careful presentations and gave clear answers to our questions showing great sincerity and willingness to help. Incidentally, our program also offered cultural points, walks through old towns and along riverbanks; beer, wine and German cuisine helped regenerate tired bodies, and the Berlin State Opera provided a new stimulus.

I would like to close by thanking all the government officials of both countries as well as the staff of JDZB who planned and led this program, all the institutions who so willingly accepted our visits, all those who accompanied us throughout the trip, the Japanese “home” institutions and all the people we met during our stay. I sincerely hope that this program is continued in the future.





German Delegation (one female student, five male students and three teachers from MINT-EC Schools) at the Super Science High School Student Fair in Ōsaka from 4–6 August 2015. The visit was supported and made possible by the Youth Research Foundation, Gesamtmetall within the framework of the Initiative Think ING. and the JDZB (Photo © MINT-EC).



Roundtable at the symposium “Food Safety and Consumer Advocacy in Japan and East Asia”, which was held in the JDZB in cooperation with the Graduate School of East Asian Studies (GEAS) at the Freie Universität Berlin on 8–19 May 2015 as part of the Asia-Pacific Weeks 2015.



“The rise of Asia and the Situation of Asian Studies in Germany” was the topic of the annual conference of the German Association for Asian Studies, which was held at the JDZB on 28 and 29 May during the Asia-Pacific Weeks 2015 in collaboration with the JDZB and the Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV).



Expert symposium on “Energy Systems in Transition: China – Germany – Japan” on 9 June 2015 at the JDZB, in cooperation with the Mercator Institute for China Studies MERICS (Berlin).



Two new workshops at the very well-attended JDZB Open Day on 20 June 2015:

Art from Aluminium: The Berlin-based artist MITSUYA Toshihiko demonstrated to an active audience how he creates imaginative structures and characters using aluminium foil.

Wagashi with NAKAMOTO Hiroyo, Tea Master from the Ueda School and the Chanoyukai (Hanover). *Wagashi* are traditional Japanese sweets made from pure natural raw plant materials (red bean paste Anko, sugar, rice flour, agar agar) and are eaten when drinking green tea.



## CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

### GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Conference: Security Missions Abroad**  
C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin; Institute for International Policy Studies, Tōkyō  
30 September 2015, in Tōkyō

**Security Policy Workshop, Track 1.5**  
C: German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tōkyō  
29–30 October 2015, in Tōkyō

**Conference: Fiscal Integration in East Asia and Europe – Has the Global Financial Crisis Promoted the Development of Regional Institutions?**  
C: Institute for Asian Studies, German Institute for Global and Area Studies GIGA, Hamburg; Asian Development Bank Institute, Tōkyō  
Date: Autumn 2015, in Tōkyō

### ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Symposium: Developing Cities – Resilience, Climate Protection and Energy Safety in Japan and Germany**  
C: Climate Alliance, Frankfurt/Main; Nagoya University; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Berlin  
5 November 2015, in Tōkyō

### DEMOGRAPHY

**Symposium: Decent Work for All – Why Families in Germany and Japan are Reliant**  
C: Gießen University; Tsukuba University  
22–24 October 2015, in Tsukuba and Tōkyō

### STATE, ECONOMY, SOCIETY

**Conference: Diversity for Academic Excellence: Creating Opportunities for Female and Young Scholars**  
C: The Japan Foundation, Tōkyō; Science Council of Japan, Tōkyō  
4 September 2015, in Tōkyō

**Symposium: Fighting Poverty in Japan and Germany**  
C: Hōsei University, Tōkyō; Jena University of Applied Sciences; Embassy of Japan, Berlin; International Youth Service of Germany (IJAB), Bonn  
5 September 2015



### Symposium: The Future of Structural Reforms in Germany and Japan

C: Fujitsu Research Institute FRI, Tōkyō; Cologne Institute for Economic Research  
8 September 2015, in Tōkyō

### Symposium: Chances and Challenges of Regional Integration in East Asia and Europe

C: Robert Bosch Foundation, Alumni Association of the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum  
11 September 2015, in Tōkyō

### Conference: Risks

C: German Institute for Japan Studies, Tōkyō  
24 November 2015

### DIALOG OF CULTURES

#### Symposium: 70 Years after the End of World War II – Remembering the Deployment of Nuclear Weapons in Political Discourses in Japan and Germany

C: Graduate School of East Asian Studies, Free University of Berlin, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin  
16 October 2015

### SPECIAL PROJECT

#### 24<sup>th</sup> German-Japanese Forum

C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tōkyō  
28–29 October 2015, in Tōkyō

### CULTURAL EVENTS

#### DAHLEM MUSICAL SOIREE

**Chamber Music of Young Talents**  
14 October 2015, 7.30 pm

### EXHIBITION

**“MITATE/als wenn” by Eva-Maria SCHOEN and SUZUKI Nanae (paintings & photographs)**

Opening: 26 August 2015  
On display: 27 August until 15 October 2015

**Paintings by MURAYAMA Nobuhiko**  
Opening: 20 November 2015  
On display: 23 November until January 2016

### 15. INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL BERLIN

**Author's Reading with ONO Masatsugu**  
13 September 2015, 6 pm  
Venue: Haus der Berliner Festspiele  
(Schaperstraße 24, 10719 Berlin)

**Specials/City of the Future: Talk with ONO Masatsugu and the architect Omar AKBAR**  
13 September 2015, 8 pm  
Venue: Literaturhaus Berlin  
(Fasanenstraße 23, 10719 Berlin)

**Author's Reading with YOSHIMOTO Banana “Moshi Moshi”, Presenter Knut ELSTERMANN**  
15 September 2015, 6 pm  
Venue: Haus der Berliner Festspiele  
(Schaperstraße 24, 10719 Berlin)

**An Evening with YOSHIMOTO Banana: Talk of Pupils and Students from Berlin with the Author**  
16 September 2015  
Venue: JDZB

### 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



“SHIMURA’s colors in Berlin. About the origin of colors in the land of the rising sun”  
SHIMURA Fukumi and her daughter SHIMURA Yōko on 17 June 2015 at the JDZB.

Both silk and dyes from plants and fruits are starting materials and inspiration for SHIMURA Fukumi’s art of weaving and dyeing. In 1990 she was awarded the title “Living National Treasure” for her achievements and dedication to preserving this traditional craftsmanship. The Master along with her daughter SHIMURA Yōko gave a presentation at the JDZB about their world of color and their art of weaving. The presentation was part of a series of events accompanying the exhibition “Kimono. Fukumi and Yoko Shimura | Japonism” (19 June to 6 September 2015) in the Bröhan-Museum Berlin, where the works of SHIMURA Fukumi and SHIMURA Yōko are displayed together with objects, photographs and graphics of Art Nouveau.

Another presentation accompanying the exhibition was the lecture “The Development of the Kimono from Antiquity to the Present and the Characteristics of Japanese Culture” by Prof. TAKEDA Sachiko, held on 28 August 2015 at the JDZB.



At a workshop on the introduction to the art of coloring led by the SHIMURAS on 19 June 2015 at Berlin’s University of the Arts. The photo shows the artist SHIMURA Fukumi with lecturers and students in the Colors Workshop at the University.



The results of the workshop