

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

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Economically bigger than NAFTA

In March 2013, the heads of state decided to enter negotiations about an EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EU-Japan EPA). On 6 July 2017 they reached an agreement in principle. While certain issues remain unresolved, including investment related dispute resolution, the fact that Europe, one of Japan's biggest trading partners, and Japan, the third largest world economy, have created a free trade zone, granting each other's markets preferential treatment, sends an important message. If the EU-Japan EPA goes into effect, it will unite an economic zone generating 30% of world GDP, surpassing NAFTA (US, Canada, Mexico) by 26%, and TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) 11 (14%) which remained after the United States abandoned TPP, by far.

Negotiations with a Bumpy Start

Even when Japan became more positive-minded concerning EPA negotiations

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with the EU, the EU remained sceptical: While Japan imposes an automobile import tax of 0%, at 10% EU CET on automobile imports are high. Japan's import tax on plasma TVs is 0%, that of the EU 14%. Being the only one having to eliminate tariffs, the EU saw no advantage in an FTA with Japan. Korea, by comparison, imposes an 8% tax on automobiles, and a 5%–8% tax on industrial machines, making tariff negotiations more appealing. This duty structure was another reason for the EU to avoid negotiations. In 2016, Japanese exports to the EU amounted to 7,98 trillion yen. The EU imposed customs duties on 65% of this. Japanese imports from the EU that year amounted to 8,15 trillion yen, and Japan imposed customs duties on 29%. This meant that, to reach an EPA, the EU would have to abolish charges on 65% of exported goods, compared to 30% for Japan. This asymmetrical situation was another initial hurdle.

Japan Joins TPP – EU's Position Shifts

Only when Japan showed signs of joining TPP did the EU change its stance. Between 2011 and 2012, it became clear that the NODA administration was serious about joining TPP. This was the decisive point that made the EU reconsider, and take a more proactive role in its trade negotiations with Japan.

In May 2011, at a summit meeting, the EU proposed a scoping exercise to determine the partners' ambitions concerning the negotiations' scope and the degree of liberalization sought. Preliminary talks had begun. The questions weighing heavily on the EU's mind included to what degree Japan was willing to eliminate tariffs on EU agricultural products, reduce non-tariff barriers, and open its public procurement market. In May 2012, the European Council declared the scoping exercise completed. In November, the Council presented a mandate to the Commission authorizing it to enter



Participants of the 12th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum (18–27 August 2017, topic: Sustainable Development Goals) on the Sky Deck of the Roppongi Hills Mori Tower in Tōkyō.

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negotiations with Japan. In September 2012, the European Parliament in Brussels opened a public consultation on the issue. At this point, support came from the UK and the European Chemical Industry Council, while the European automotive industry disagreed with the decision. Ambassador SHIOJIRI Kōjirō commented: “The tide has turned.” This was also the time the EU’s attitude changed.

In December 2012, the Liberal Democratic Party headed by ABE Shinzō won the Elections in Japan, and in 2013, began negotiations with the US, in which the US acknowledged Japan’s sensitivity concerning agricultural goods, and Japan acknowledged the United States’ sensitivity concerning the automobile sector, leading to “exceptional tariff breaks” on the US side, and paving the way to Japan’s participation in TPP negotiations. While Japan’s participation in TPP negotiations became increasingly likely, the EU began to get serious about entering EPA negotiations with Japan.

Prime Minister ABE publicly announced Japan’s participation in TPP talks on 15 March 2013. The same month, European and Japanese heads of state agreed to enter EPA negotiations. In April, the first round of negotiations was held in Brussels, followed by 17 more.

Most Contested Areas: Cars and Agricultural Products

Like TPP, the EU-Japan EPA is aimed at increasing the scope of tariff abolition, and many rules were negotiated. While Japan’s main target were reduced EU tariffs on industrial goods, also applicable to Japanese cars, the EU’s key targets were Japanese non-trade barriers, regulations on pharmaceutical products and medical instruments, and Japan’s public procurement market, attractive to the EU railroad industry. After the TPP was agreed on in principle in October 2015, a substantial amount of agricultural goods was added to the EU’s wish list. Seeing Japan agree to scrapping tariffs on 81% of agricultural goods in TPP, the EU also voiced ambitions to address this sector, its main target being tariff breaks on cheese, chocolate, and wine. Japan wanted short term reductions on automobile tariffs.

With these goals, the parties entered the final round of negotiations.

An Antithesis to TRUMP’S Conservatism

The EU-Japan EPA is a historical event in postwar international trade. When Japan entered GATT in 1955, many western European countries invoked Article 35 (Non-application of the Agreement between particular Contract Parties) and refused to extend “most-favored nation” (MFN) and “national treatment” - two of the agreement’s most basic principles - to Japan. The resulting trade frictions between Europe and Japan proceeded to affect a wide range of products including textiles, steel, ball bearings, ships, color TVs, semiconductors, and cars. The European side introduced quantitative restrictions vis-à-vis Japan, which Japan met with self-imposed export restrictions. This continued until the WTO was born in 1995. Europe’s quantitative restrictions were clearly in breach of GATT (Article XI, General Elimination of Quantitative Restrictions), while Japan’s self-imposed export restrictions were a “gray area measure” bypassing GATT, which the WTO today defines as a clear breach. Considering the difficult past of Japanese-European trade relations, it is a great achievement that both sides have now hammered out a solid trade deal. So far, the United States and Europe have been close transatlantic partners, but while TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) negotiations have stalled, Japan and Europe were first to conclude an FTA. It is no exaggeration to say that the EU-Japan EPA is a historical achievement. Using it as a starting point, Japan and the EU should become a bulwark of free trade against protectionism.



Dear Readers!

On 6 July 2017, just before the G20 summit in Hamburg, the EU Commission and Prime Minister ABE signed a “Basic Agreement” on an Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the EU. It is a strong signal against protectionism and for a liberal global world order, and will create a new and very large economic region. Nevertheless, negotiations were and will not be easy, as outlined by Prof. WATANABE Yoritumi in his leading article.

In addition to trade, the G20 also dealt with global health under the German presidency. Working closely together to improve the development of global health systems and dealing with epidemics and similar challenges is becoming an increasingly important issue for a global policy. Both Japan and Germany play very active roles here, and a symposium in October will help to further expand cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, health is one of the goals of the United Nations Sustainability Agency in 2030, which was addressed this year by the Young Leaders in Tōkyō in August.

On 24 September 2017, a new Bundestag will be elected in Germany and a new government will be formed with a new agenda. However, close cooperation with Japan on global issues such as security, health, digitalization and demographic change will not alter. The JDZB will continue to support this collaboration, and we would be delighted if you would like to be involved in our work, whether by participating in our events and/or feedback of any kind.

Dr. Friederike Bosse
Secretary General of the JDZB

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In October 2017, the JDZB will hold the symposium “Germany’s and Japan’s Role in Global Health”, in cooperation with the Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, the Foreign Ministries of Japan and Germany and the Global Health Center (GHC) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva). The following is an interview with the director of the GHC, Prof. Ilona KICKBUSCH.

How do you define “Global Health”, how are international responsibilities organized, how are decisions made, and what are the political and economic implications for individual countries?

The policy field “Global Health” primarily deals with health challenges that reach beyond national borders and the responsibilities of individual governments. In order to deal with them, national and international efforts are required that include many different policy areas. Topics include: global vaccination programs or epidemics, mother-child health, international tobacco control or cooperation to reduce antibiotic resistance. They also include topics that look at the impact of trade or financial policies on health. Many decisions are made within the World Health Organization (WHO) but their implementation requires cooperation with other organizations as well as the political and financial support of the member nations. In addition, for example, decisions made by the World Trade Organization can have an impact on health, such as with pharmaceutical products. One focus of international cooperation currently is to assist countries to develop their health care systems, which requires significant international and national resources. A population’s poor health status or premature mortality rates have a negative impact on economic development, which means that both development banks and the private sector invest more in health care capacities – the global health care economy is growing rapidly. Epidemics can lead to huge financial losses, especially if they cross borders and shut down entire sectors of the economy. The high economic and security policy dimensions of global health has become increasingly important in recent years.

What are the origins and context of Germany and Japan’s activities in the area of “Global Health”, and what positions do they represent in the G7 / G20 discussions, where are the similarities and differences?

Both Germany and Japan have only slowly begun to play an important role in global health policy, and today both countries are extremely important players. Multilateral cooperation in international organizations is particularly important to both countries; this is directly related to the history of the two countries where their inclusion as losers of the Second World War became very important. Japan has internationally established a name for itself with the concept of “human security”, Germany with its pioneering role in environmental policy. Both countries are very active in the WHO and have used their G7 and G20 presidencies to promote both global health care and their fundamental support of the WHO. From the beginning, Japan has been very committed to establishing the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and continues to contribute to its funding. Following the Ebola epidemic, Germany has committed to improving global health security. Both countries have internationally significant development organizations and are currently working to strengthen health systems. The G7 summit in Ise-Shima also underlined the importance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), especially for global health. Germany first organized a health ministers’ meeting in 2017 during the G20 meeting, and it is assumed that health will continue to be on the G20 agenda. After the meeting held in Germany in 2017, global health is also likely to be high on the agenda in Japan in 2019. This is also due to the interest of the two heads of government, Angela MERKEL and ABE Shinzō.



Photo © GHC

After many years of being the only woman on panels for various conferences, two years ago you called for women who work in the area of “Global Health” to put themselves forward and become more active. What happened, did anything change? How important are women in the area of “Global Health”?

Many initiatives have now been established in this area. We - the Global Health Center - have created an international list of three hundred “women leaders” who have gained much attention. In Geneva there is the Gender Champions Initiative, in which international organizations as well as diplomatic missions commit themselves to promoting women. This year, some WHO member countries have called for more women to be included in delegations for global health meetings, and also to appoint more female delegation leaders. Statistics are being kept on the visibility of women at important events on global health, the days of a male-only panel discussing women’s health should be over. These activities are not just about the fact that women have an interest in discussing issues that are important to women, but that women have to contribute to ALL aspects of global health - politics, economics and international law etc. Currently we are creating a list of women in/from Germany who are active in global health. This should facilitate visibility as well as networking, especially for younger women. Moreover, no one can then say “there are no women in this area”.

Symposium “Promoting Children, Engaging the Elderly - Shaping Demographic Change” at the International House of Japan in Tōkyō, 10 May 2017, in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW). Joana HITZMANN und Monika M. SOMMER, German Embassy, Tōkyō

In her keynote address, Parliamentary State Secretary Elke FERNER (BMFSFJ, photo) stressed the relevance of synergies for shaping demographic change. Although change could not be stopped, it could still be influenced by social developments. This is particularly evident in Germany due to increased levels of immigration from abroad, which has increased both the overall population and resulted in an increase in birth rates. Thus, the main focus for the next few years will be integrating these migrants into the labor market. The provision of child care plays an important role in reconciling work and family life.



In her keynote presentation, Deputy Minister FURUYA Noriko (MHLW, photo) followed on with this point and stressed the significance of creating a society where all people are integrated and participating in social life. Within this context, she referred to the “Japan Revitalisation Strategy”, which has strengthened child care in Japan. A further reform plan was also announced in March to promote the reconciliation of work and family life, particularly with regard to long working hours. In addition, efforts are being made to tackle the declining birth rates in Japan, with the example of government family allowances in Germany.

Forum 1: Child Care

Nora DAMME (Speaker in the “Development and Quality of Child Day Care Unit”, BMFSFJ) showed that since 2003, the number of working mothers with children aged between two and three years has risen, as has the number of fathers taking parental leave; this success was due to family allowance payments. Since 2013 every child is entitled to a child care place from its first birthday, and demand continues to grow. As a result, further measures are planned to ensure access to child care, increase the quality of care and address the lack of child care specialists.

NOMURA Satoshi (Head of Unit “Equal Em-

ployment, Child and Family Policy Bureau”, MHLW) noted that the birth rate rose again slightly after the trough in 2005, but was still low. He gave reasons such as couples marrying later and having on average only one child because they find it difficult to divide duties with a second child because of long working hours; 50% of all women stop paid employment after having a child. As a potential solution, NOMURA cited the Government’s work style reform: shorten working hours and reconcile family responsibilities with work duties. Discussions focused on financing day care for children; parents in Japan bear a slightly larger burden than parents in Germany. Access to public grants exists in both countries. It became clear that in Japan immigration has so far rarely been linked to demographic change. However, NOMURA stressed that migration is important to sustain industry and to counteract a declining population. Another issue was the lack of specialist skills in both countries, especially in child care.

Forum 2: Diversity for the Generation 60+

Dr. Matthias von SCHWANENFLÜGEL (Head of Department “Demographic Change, Older People, Social Welfare”, BMFSFJ) then presented the German Federal Government’s demographic strategy to be achieved with improved coordination between the different federal states and increased cooperation with local authorities. He also presented the Federal Government’s “7th Report on the Elderly” which outlines concrete recommendations for action: municipalities should be given more political responsibility and networks should be created between various stakeholders.

UEDA Kokushi (Head of Unit “Employment Security Bureau”, MHLW) dealt with employment measures for the elderly: the expected declining population and the shrinking cohort of available workers will lead to problems of maintaining industry. However, he expressed the wish of many in Japan to continue working after their 65th year. The statutory retirement age in Japan is 65, yet many companies have an internal policy for workers to retire at 60 years. The government is encouraging companies to raise the retirement age to 65 at the employees’ request.

The main focus of the discussion was on the Japanese model of continuing employment. In

addition to public employment offices (“Hello Work”) there is the so-called “Silver Human Resource Centres”: these focus on providing lighter jobs, mostly part-time – which is what many senior citizens want.

Forum 3: Synergies for children and the elderly

The municipalities were at the forefront of these discussions. Mayor Heribert KLEENE spoke of the demographic change in the municipality of Vrees, which underwent significant structural change after the number of agricultural businesses sharply declined and the number of commercial businesses rose. The population as a whole has grown strongly, yet the aging population process continues. The municipality built a so-called “Bürgerhaus” with day care facilities for the elderly as well as barrier-free housing, with care services strongly reliant on volunteer staff. The goal is for people to be able to live and actively participate in life in Vrees at any age.

Mayor MIYAJI Masaki introduced the City of Tobetsu on Hokkaidō, where the population is steadily declining. Here there’s a non-profit organization here called Yuyu, which has a public meeting place for the elderly to provide homework assistance to school students, a social services terminal which functions as a meeting place for clubs, and a jointly operated farm. The goal is to increase population numbers again.

Discussions focused on the coexistence between young and old, and the role of voluntary work, a common theme. The Japanese side showed great interest in the positive development of the Municipality of Vrees with regard to its growing number of commercial enterprises, as jobs are important to increase the number of inhabitants.

The closing remarks by KATSUDA Tomoaki (MHLW) and Dr. Matthias von SCHWANENFLÜGEL (BMFSFJ) highlighted the commonalities between the two countries – with similar approaches to allowing older people to live at home until their death; recruiting more nurses and making the occupation more attractive – but also in identifying different approaches, e.g., in the area of child care. KATSUDA noted he had learned many new and stimulating ideas to explore further. SCHWANENFLÜGEL agreed, stating it would be necessary to make overall changes to the world of employment; he then emphasized how immigration was seen as an opportunity in Germany.

(This text is an abridged version of a report that can be found on the JDZB homepage on the detailed page of the conference)

Trip Report: German-Japanese Junior Experts Exchange Program Research Trip to Germany (6–17 July 2017)

HOSHINO Satoshi (Utsunomiya University, Graduate School of Engineering, Department of Machine Intelligence Engineering)

I am currently listening to Brahms as I recount my experiences in Germany. On the last night of the trip, we all gathered at the Odeonsplatz in Munich to enjoy a performance by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. The next day, we returned to Haneda via Frankfurt. But first, let us return to 6 July 2017.

The eight participants met at the boarding gate in Narita Airport. Three of us are from universities, two from national research and development agencies, and three from private corporations. We are not all researchers; some work in areas such as organizational management. The Junior Experts Exchange Program has been going on for more than ten years, and this year's theme was "service robotics." Robotics is a varied research field that cuts across all of engineering, and our backgrounds reflected that. Our whirlwind research trip began the next day. In 12 days we were to visit ten universities, research institutes and businesses. In Bonn we visited the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and learned about the standing of robotics in German engineering and the system of research subsidies. After, Prof. Sven BEHNKE of the University of Bonn introduced his research and gave a lecture on deep learning. He told us about how their group of professors had proposed "max pooling." To test the technology they are developing, they participate in international robotic competitions, pooling the strengths of their individual research. There is much to be learned from how they manage their own technology.

At the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) we visited the offices of Prof. Tamim ASFOUR and Prof. Rudiger DILLMANN. We saw a demonstration of kitchen robots doing housework, a humanoid robot with 63 degrees of freedom, and a self-driving car. The robot's motors were custom made, and by installing the torque sensors internally they control against external forces. A few of the self-driving cars are already registered and are being tested on public roads. In Japan it will be difficult to test robots and self-driving vehicles until regulations are loosened. We then boarded a bus to Stuttgart and visited the Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (IPA) at the Fraunhofer Society for the Advancement of Applied

Research. For dinner, we enjoyed Swabian cuisine at a restaurant recommended by our guide, Tatiana. We all found it delicious. The regional wines are also exquisite. We celebrated one of the participant's birthdays with wine made of Trollinger grapes and "Sekt" (sparkling wine).

In Munich we headed to the German Aerospace Center. The humanoid robot we met here was called "TORO". Its name, which means "slow" in Japanese, is misleading. Its torque control allows it to remain standing on a mat even when its upper or lower body is pushed. Prof. Gordon CHENG's group at the Munich School of Engineering is working on research concerning soft robotics. They developed tactile sensors that act as the robot's skin, and used it to control its joints. The way the robot changes its arm movements based on where it is touched is human-like, and when the robot reacted to the touch of a feather I had goosebumps. At the University of the German Federal Armed Forces in Munich, robotics researchers and psychologists are working together to study human-robot interactions, which is almost unthinkable in Japan. Prof. Verna NITSCH explained that in Germany this is only being done there and at the University of Bielefeld. Cross-field collaboration is necessary to quantitatively explore how humans react to and are psychologically affected by robots. Even in Japan people are talking about the "fusion between the humanities and sciences", and I saw this possibility for robotics.

When it comes to cutting-edge technology and manufacturing capabilities, robotics in Japan and Germany are at the same level. However, I felt there is a clear difference when it comes to "people" and "money." People – in Japan, the majority of research is done by undergraduate and Master's students, while in Germany PhD students and postdoctoral researchers are at the center. There is a difference in the level of knowledge, skill, and experience between them and Japanese students. Money – in Germany, researchers have funding opportunities not only from the federal research subsidies, but also from European sources. There is also a system of subsidies in Japan, but it is nearly impossible to receive A and S research funds in the field of robotics, especially for young researchers. Furthermore, there is no comparison between the funds German and Japanese faculties receive from their universities. Japan needs a long-term vision and strategy, and to create a governing system for developing human resources and expanding funding. This research trip has filled me with ideas and motivation. I am deeply grateful to everyone at the Japanese German Center Berlin, especially Tatiana WONNEBERG and Sabrina WÄGERLE, who took care of us for the duration of the trip, Prof. INOUE Shigeyoshi at the Munich Institute of Technology, the German Federal Ministry of Education, and everyone else who helped us during our visit. As a final note, I would like to express my sincere hope that this bridge-building program continues, and that the technological exchange between Japan and Germany grows even deeper.



Photograph taken in front of Karlsruhe Palace. From the left: HANAI Ryo (Industrial Technology Research Institute), INOUE Mari (Soft Bank Robotics), KOBAYASHI Taisuke (Nara Institute of Science and Technology), TAKAGUCHI Junichi (Beckhoff Automation), TAKAHASHI Hiromasa (Toshiba), HOSHINO Satoshi (Utsunomiya University), AKAI Naoki (Nagoya University), KITAZUMI Rima (Japan Medical Research and Development Organization).

Symposium “Aging Society and the Answers of the Law in Japan and Germany” on 7 July 2017, at Waseda University, Tōkyō. Cooperation: German-Japanese Lawyers Association (DJJV), Hamburg; Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Tōkyō office.

Photo © FES



Artist’s guide and documentary film (about an art project in Tōkyō) on the photography exhibition “The Human Dimension” on 12 July 2017 in the JDZB with the photographers NAKAZATO Katsuhito and Stefan CANHAM as well as the curator Titus SPREE – the opening on 29 July was obstructed by heavy rain. The exhibition was on display at the JDZB until mid-August.



Introduction to the Japanese board game Go – a new offering of Japanese culture to try at JDZB Open House on 24 June 2017; besides various information also offered were, among others, Ikebana, tea ceremony, Manga drawing, Kendama game, calligraphy, Chigiri-e paper art – and in the evening Japanese rap with Julian NAGANO and a jazz concert with Kaori and Bagabonds.



Symposium “Digital Transformation and Globalization in Germany and Japan” on 13 June 2017 at the Cologne Institute for Economic Research (IW); Cooperation: Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI), Tōkyō.



Specialists’ Symposium “The Future of Manufacturing: Industry 4.0 in China, Germany and Japan” on 12 June 2017 at the JDZB; Cooperation: Mercator Institute for Chinese Studies (MERICS).



MIRRORING – German-Japanese Encounters. At the 2017 Reimers Concert on 31 May at the JDZB, members of the Young German Philharmonic performed mainly Japanese contemporary composers. The Junge Deutsche Philharmonie e.V. was founded by members of the Federal Youth Orchestra in 1974, and since then has brought together the best students of German-speaking music colleges under renowned conductors and artistic advisers.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Workshop: Germany and Japan's Role in Global Health

C: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Tōkyō; Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō
12–13 October 2017

Workshop on Security Policy, Track 1.5

C: German Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin
14 November 2017, in Tōkyō

Conference: Globalisation Processes and Democratic Legitimation – A Comparative Study of Japan and Europe

C: Free University Berlin, Sophia University, Tōkyō
11–12 December 2017

STATE, ECONOMY, SOCIETY

Symposium: Sports, Arts and Inclusion

C: Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center, Tōkyō; Tokyo University of Arts
29 September 2017, in Tōkyō

Conference: Structural Changes of Labor Markets in Japan, Germany and France

C: École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris; German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tōkyō
6/7 October 2017, in Paris

Symposium: Democratization of Society through Equal Participation and Diversity in Japan, Korea and Germany

C: Düsseldorf University; Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Berlin
30 November + 1 December 2017

DIALOG OF CULTURES

Symposium: Living Tradition. The Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

C: The Association for the Socio-Culture (ASC), Tōkyō; University of Hildesheim Foundation; Association of German-Japanese Societies; German Museum of Technology Foundation, Berlin
7 September 2017

SPECIAL PROJECT

26th Japanese-German Forum

C: German Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; Japan Center for International Exchange, Tōkyō
16–17 November 2017, in Tōkyō

CULTURAL EVENTS

EXHIBITION

Exhibition „The Wave of Kanagawa – The 36 Views of Mount Fuji“ Silk Relief Paintings (Oshie) by the Artist Group Keyakinokai

Opening: 1 September 2017, 7 pm
On Display: 4 September until 20 October 2017 (Traveling exhibition on display in Würzburg, Berlin, Düsseldorf and Cologne)



Photos © Y. NAKAMURA

Pictures (Drawings and Paintings) and Poems by Liane BIRNBERG and John BERGER

Opening: 27 October 2017, 7 pm
On display: 30 October 2017 until end of January 2018



Foto © BIRNBERG

CONCERT

Contemporary Chamber Music with Noëlle-Anne DARBELLAY (Violin), Olivier DARBELLAY (Horn) and INOUE Satoko (Piano)

15 November 2017, 7.30 pm

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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
 - JDZB SCIENCEYOUTH PROGRAM
- 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 concerts opens 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



Young Researchers Win People's Prize at the Super Science High School Student Fair (SSH) in Kobe

For the fourth time in a row, students from the STEM-EC delegation (known in German as MINT-EC, a national excellence network for secondary schools with teaching excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)) were awarded the people's prize for their research projects at the SSH in Japan. Luca FÄTH and Felix BRAUN, both from Friedrich Dessauer Gymnasium in Aschaffenburg, were awarded prizes for their projects, which had already been successful at the German National Competition "Jugend forscht".

Since 2012, students of the National Excellence School Network STEM-EC have participated annually in Japan's largest scientific competition for young researchers.

In addition to the exceptional experience of presenting their research projects in an international competition, the delegates were given the chance to gain insights into the culture of Japan in a program organized by the JDZB. The accompanying program included visiting historical temples, shrines and gardens, and guided tours of Kobe und Kyoto. This was the first time the group was received by the Consul General and attended a football game in Kobe.

The journey is sponsored and supported by the JDZB, the Stiftung Jugend forscht (Foundation for young researchers) and by the employers' association Gesamtmetall within the framework of the initiative 'think ING' a German initiative to encourage more young people into engineering studies and careers (Photos: MINT-EC)

