

Japan – for International Broadcasters a Difficult Media Market with Lots of Potential

Gerda MEUER, Deutsche Welle

Even in our globalized world, Japan still seems foreign to many Germans. Language, culture, archaic traditions and of course the 9000km flying distance – Japan and Germany are clearly separated by many things. When journalists report from Japan, their home newsrooms often ask questions that deal with the exoticism of the country. Yet, Japan is closer to us than we think. Historically and ideologically there are many parallels. And of course Japan is a democracy where freedom of expression and the media is respected.

Japan's diverse media landscape and the information society ensure this. Every day 117 newspapers are published in the island country. The entire print production equals 53.7 million copies. This means 426 copies per 1,000 inhabitants – the Japanese remain champions in reading newspapers in 2017. There is even an abundance of service in radio and television broadcasters. NHK (Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai, Japan Broadcasting Corporation) is the second largest public service

broadcaster in the world, based on annual budgets. In addition, there are more than 200 private and commercial radio and television stations. Moreover, millions of Japanese are constantly on the Internet via their smartphones; social media is a natural part of everyday life of young people – even more so than in Germany. Digitization has arrived on this island nation.

Media has penetrated Japanese society. This is actually a perfect starting position for Deutsche Welle (DW). Yet, the Japanese market is very difficult for the German broadcaster. Similar to populations in many other countries, Japanese people use media predominantly in their own language. This applies to TV, radio and online including social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc. Among the 30 languages used by Deutsche Welle, Japanese is no longer represented. Programs were discontinued many years ago. Deutsche Welle focuses its use of languages on countries in which, unlike in Japan, there is no freedom of expression and freedom

of the press such as in China, Russia, Iran and many states of the Arab world.

For DW to position its English-language news channel on the Japanese market would be considered a success. But there is enormous competition for broadcasting slots on cable. Here too, cable providers present almost exclusively Japanese broadcasters. Companies are only interested in foreign broadcasters if they provide subtitles or voice-overs in Japanese to their shows. After all, TV stations that only attract a few subscribers generate little revenue.

Therefore, the commercialization of the cable market plays a role in Deutsche Welle's success. With a purely English or German channel DW will not be able to achieve much of a wide reach. You can still watch DW's programs in Japan, though. The easiest way to watch is streamed through the internet, on the website or app. In addition, the English programs of the German broadcaster can be watched via the PayTV provider New IT Venture (NITV). The company



The members of the JDZB Foundation Council after the 33rd meeting in Tōkyō on 15 November 2017. In the front row, the chairman of the JDZB Foundation Council Gerhard WIESHEU, JDZB Secretary General Dr Friederike BOSSE and JDZB President Former Ambassador Professor Dr SHINYO Takahiro.

targets specialised group of so-called expatriates, i.e., foreigners living in Japan, including Germans, British, Australians and Americans. NITV is the only pay TV broadcaster that offers approximately two dozen channels in foreign languages. Moreover, any Japanese can receive the DW television channels directly via satellite, specifically on AsiaSat 7. But they will need a dish of about 2.5 meters.

Nevertheless, rapid advancements in DW's digitalization offer new opportunities. In many of the foreign broadcasters' target markets, people are predominantly using digital services to access information - and the trend is rising. Facebook is especially popular among Japanese. It is a social media that plays a special role in DW's digital strategy alongside YouTube, Twitter and Instagram. This way, people can be reached in real time in Japan, especially via videos that can be translated into Japanese using Google Translate or other software solutions. However, this is certainly not part of the daily routine for many users, but even here technology will continue to develop so that soon language alone will no longer be the decisive barrier to using media services.

In any case, Japan, the technology nation, is preparing for the digital future. It was the partner country of this year's information technology fair CeBIT in Hannover and with its government program "Society 5.0" it seeks to future-proof not only its economy but society as well. As a society, Japan faces similar problems to Germany: the population is ageing, and there is a lack of skilled workers in all industry sectors. Within this context, the topic of migration is being debated in Japan, a new concept for a very isolated island country until now.

Europe is important as an export market for the Japanese. This is why the government is worried about Britain's decision to leave the European Union. Germany remains a reliable partner for Tōkyō, diplomatic and economic relations have grown and have been stable for many years. The spatial distance can thus be easily bridged for both countries. Especially in times of nuclear sabre-rattling between neighboring North Korea and the US, responsible partnerships are more important than ever. DW's journalists will continue to report about this highly interesting country, not just for the Tōkyō 2020 Olympics, and not just because I worked there for five years. But because Japan and Germany have much in common despite their differences.

CONTENT

Japan – for International ...	
Gerda MEUER	1–2
Interview	
New Asia-Pacific Department	3
Conference Report	
Labour Market Inequalities	4
Exchange Programs	
SCIENCEYOUTH PROGRAM	5
Cultural Events Autumn 2017	6
Preview of Events 2018	7
Last Page	
Conferences in Autumn 2017	8



Gerda MEUER is Program Director of Deutsche Welle and member of the JDZB Foundation Council

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers!

I am writing this editorial from Tōkyō, where the meeting of the JDZB Foundation Council has been held. At this annual meeting, we have been given a wealth of valuable advice and support regarding the management and activities of the JDZB by the Foundation Council, which is made up of 12 experts each from Japan and Germany, from academic, business, diplomatic, media and cultural spheres. This newsletter comprised articles on various aspects of Japanese-German relations and, in this edition, we have a report by Gerda MEUER on the challenges and opportunities of Deutsche Welle in the Japanese market. Following general elections in both Japan and Germany, attention is on the new administrations, but Japanese society has also been rocked by the deplorable abuse of SNS, taking advantage of the loneliness of young people. The lives of many youths who feel hopelessness for the future are brought into stark focus and we must ask ourselves again what we must do for the future prospects of young people.

Youth exchange programs are an important part of JDZB's work and the topic of "Cultivating young people's self-esteem" taken from the report of the German group which participated in the Japanese-German Youth Leader Seminar in Japan this year is a leitmotif. Self-esteem can be nurtured through social relationships and participation. Hand in hand with a legislative system, it is important that each one of us makes the effort to ensure a better society.

I wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

KIYOTA Tokiko

Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB

jdzb echo

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In May 2017, the Asia-Pacific (AP) Department was established for the first time as a special department for Asia within the German Federal Foreign Office. Below is an interview with the head of the department, Ambassador Ina LEPEL.

Why was it established and what are the objectives of the new AP Department?

We established our own Asia-Pacific Department as an expression of our conviction that this region plays an increasingly important role for Germany, Europe and the world. We want to intensify and shape our relations with Asia. On the one hand, this is about trade and economic issues. It is important for us to strengthen the rule-based world order in global trade, especially in this key region. We facilitate the exchange of trade with these countries through free trade agreements – but at the same time we are also helping to keep globalization active. On the other hand, it's about closer cooperation with Asia to promote solutions on global issues and discussions about regional issues. We need the Asian countries as partners to tackle major global challenges – such as the fight against climate change, but also the fight against hunger and poverty in the world. However, we are also greatly interested in resolving regional issues, for example in maritime security, peacefully and according to laws. Regional institutions such as ASEAN play an important role here. If required, we can offer support from our European experiences.

Could you please explain the realignment of Asia policy? There is an impression that relations with China are much more intensive than those with Japan or the two Koreas.

This impression deceives. Of course China plays a prominent role as Germany's most important trading partner. But our relations with our valued partners Japan and the Republic of Korea are very close and rich.

Federal President GAUCK recently paid a successful official visit to Japan in November 2016. Japan was the host country of CeBit 2017, which was opened by Prime Minister ABE together with Federal Chancellor MERKEL. Prime Minister ABE returned to Germany in early July 2017 for the G20 Summit. And Foreign Min-

ister GABRIEL recently met his Japanese colleague during this year's UN General Assembly.

The partnership with Japan is of particular economic importance to us. The EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement was agreed at the EU-Japan Summit in July which will further intensify our relations with the world's third largest economy.

In addition to cooperation between governments, there is, of course, cooperation between our companies and civic and cultural institutions. And there is the German-Japanese Forum, which will be held this year in Tōkyō on 16 and 17 November.

It is true that this close partnership is often not very visible. We are therefore very pleased that we have an institution such as the Japanese-German Center Berlin, which can contribute and inform on the broad range of these relationships.

To what extent is the EU or Europe involved in the strategic realignment of Germany's Asia policy?

Our entire foreign policy is embedded in the external relations of the European Union. And an active commitment to a stronger EU role in Asia is an important element of our Asia policy. This is a both a question of European solidarity and the question of optimal representation of our interests. Especially in terms of Asia, it is clear how small the largest European country is on the global scale: 4.5 billion people live in Asia, with enormous economic development and huge potential. The more united we are as Europeans, the more attractive we are as a partner for Asian countries. The interest in Asia is increasing in the EU as well as here in Germany. This increased commitment of the EU to Asia is already clearly evident in the economic sector. A free trade agreement already exists between the EU and Korea. Negotiations on free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam have recently concluded, and as already mentioned, political agreement with Japan already exists that hopefully



Photo © LEPEL

will be followed shortly by the successful conclusion of negotiations. Further agreements are being prepared. Such agreements between the EU and major economies in Asia have a decisive impact beyond the immediate scope: they are an important contribution to our concern to regulate globalization.

What role has Asia played in your previous diplomatic career?

Since my first foreign post in Thailand in the early 1990s, I was fascinated by the region, the rapid social change that took place there, and the energy that seemed to be in the air in cities like Bangkok and Hong Kong. While I was gaining experience in Eastern Europe and the multilateral sector in the following years, I travelled privately to Asia. Multilateral work also gave me lots of opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from the region. I vividly recall the joint efforts in the G4 framework for the reform of the United Nations Security Council with Indian and Japanese colleagues. In a total of five years in Pakistan, ten years ago as a Permanent Representative and until May of this year as Ambassador, I had the opportunity to deal extensively with South Asia. As a result, Asia has played an important role in my past career, but I know that I have only scratched the surface due to the size and diversity of the region. In any case, as head of the Asia-Pacific Department at the German Federal Foreign Office, I am learning more about “my” countries every day, and I think that is great.

Workshop “Do Labour Market Inequalities Erode Support for Democracy? Experiences and Perspectives from France, Germany and Japan”, 6–7 October 2017 in Paris

Dr Steffen HEINRICH, Head of Social Science Section, German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ, Tōkyō)

A workshop jointly organised by the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo, l'École des Hautes Études des Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, and the Japan German Centre Berlin (JDZB) examined links between labour market inequalities and political discontent, populism and democratic disconnect in France, Germany and Japan.

For a long time, policymakers and international organisations such as OECD and the IMF, have emphasised the need of structural reforms especially of labour markets to improve competitiveness. In recent years, however, the agenda has shifted towards to deepening social inequality and labour market inequalities and their influence on feelings of political marginalisation and alienation, vote abstention, democratic disconnect, support for extremist and/or anti-establishment parties and growing distrust in parties and democratic institutions. The workshop held at EHESS in Paris on 6–7 October brought together scholars from France, Germany and Japan to discuss and compare experiences and perspectives.

Patterns of labour market inequalities

The first panel examined the patterns and causes of labour market inequalities. Philippe ASKENAZY showed that despite many indicators suggesting relative stability in France, there were several worrying trends regarding young workers, urban-rural disparities made worse by austerity

and an increase in the number of so called micro entrepreneurs with often precarious working conditions and low income. Hartmut SEIFERT, former head of the Wirtschaft- und Sozialwissenschaftliches Institut (WSI) of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, argued that labour market reforms had been pivotal for the patterns of labour market inequalities present in Germany today. Moreover, despite falling unemployment rates, these inequalities persisted. TAKAHASHI Kōji from the Japan Institute of Labour Policy and Training (JILPT) argued that the division between regular and non-regular workers was the most important inequality in Japan. Nonetheless, employment status was only a rough indicator because it did not pay justice to the heterogeneity of motives and forms of employment.

Commentator Shruti SINGH (OECD) emphasised in her response that discussions of labour market inequalities must critically involve the issue of social mobility and the extent to which non-standard jobs allow the progression to standard jobs for those who seek it. Across OECD countries there was a strong link between the economic status of parents and children achieve. However, countries' individual performances differed.

Political consequences of labour market inequalities

The second panel addressed possible links between labour market inequalities and political consequences. Bruno AMABLE

(University of Geneva) explored whether insider-outsider divisions could explain differences in support for the proposal of a unified labour contract in France, which would no longer distinguish between standard and atypical employment and where the cost of dismissal would rise proportionately with tenure. However, the majority of the alleged beneficiaries rejected the idea. Although this hinted at widespread resistance to neo-liberal reforms, the group of non-supporters was, Amable argued, rather heterogeneous with widely diverging views on other policies.

Steffen HEINRICH (DIJ) compared the implications of labour market inequalities on party politics and policy preferences in Germany and Japan. He showed that, despite very similar patterns of labour market inequalities, the political implications were very different. This suggested that factors such as the tax system and political institutions played a much larger role than is commonly acknowledged. SHINODA Tōru (Waseda University) discussed in his presentation to what extent alternative mechanisms could be used for reaching out to marginalised and young workers. He emphasised that social dialogue and new forms of industrial democracy rather than legislative politics may prove more important for integrating atypical workers and their specific concerns.

In his comments, YOSHIDA Tōru (Hokkaidō University) emphasised that international surveys were not necessarily confirming a picture of growing distrust in democracy. However, a closer look revealed some variation within countries. In particular, younger Japanese were much more sceptical with regard to their influence on political decisions than older Japanese.

Outlook

Panel three was introduced by comments from Steffen HEINRICH and Franz WALDENBERGER (DIJ) who compared the insights from the three countries and identified questions which should be addressed in future research. In their closing remarks Werner PASCHA (JDZB), Franz WALDENBERGER and Sébastien LECHEVALIER (EHESS) emphasised that the three-country perspective of the workshop offered a very fruitful format for comparing experiences and perspectives in detail and for making the case of Japan more prominent in comparative research.



Photo © DIJ

The JDZB has established the JDZB-SCIENCEYOUTH PROGRAM (JDZB-SYP) for German-Japanese student exchange this year. The program is targeted at student groups and student projects from STEM* schools (senior secondary level), STEM-friendly schools and high schools that teach Japanese in Germany. The JDZB-SYP is supported by OLYMPUS Europa SE & Co. in Hamburg. (*STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

In June and October, the first German student groups visited Japan, below are two accounts of their experiences.

Within the framework of the JDZB-SYP, we, eight students and a teacher from Cardinal von Galen Gymnasium in Münster, flew to Japan for a student exchange program for twelve days in June. As a STEM-EC school, we had previously been able to establish contact with two Super Science High Schools in the Okayama Prefecture and create a joint exchange program with them. Despite our previous contact, all participants were excited and slightly nervous about travelling to Japan as none had travelled beyond Europe before. However, this nervousness quickly settled when we saw how easy and comfortable it is to travel by train in Japan, and how warmly welcomed we were at both at Tsuyama High School and Okayama Ichinomiya High School. In addition to presentations given by both sides on their school science projects, the focus was on learning about different cultures and ways of life. Our hosts had prepared a colorful program that included calligraphy and Kendo classes, and wearing kimonos for a joint tea ceremony. The direct contact with host families and students,

who were very interested, open-minded and helpful, left a lasting impression on the German students. The last part of the trip was spent in Tōkyō, where we visited the Olympus Technology History Museum

to test. Many of our new friendships will be continued after we return and we hope that a reunion in Germany may take place in a few years. We would be very pleased to welcome them!



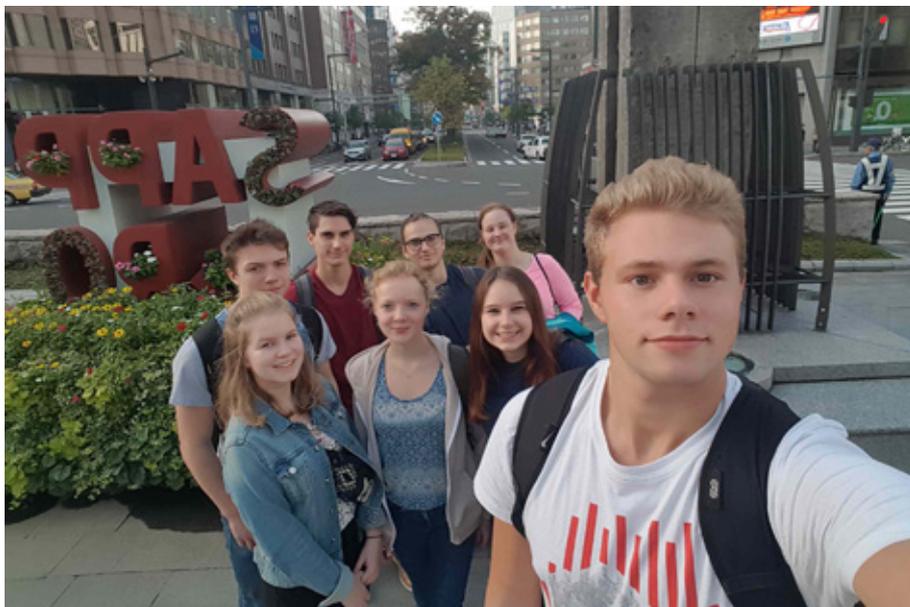
“ZuiKodō” in Hachiōji. Impressive was the manifold use of imaging technologies in the field of medicine, which we were also able

Roland KESSELMANN, teacher, Cardinal von Galen Gymnasium, Münster

This year we participated in the JDZB-SYP. Before our departure we attended an intercultural training session at the JDZB. The exchange program is significantly supported by Olympus Europa SE & Co. and

included a visit to their company in Hamburg. During the workshops in Hamburg, we learned a lot about the Olympus range of products and training opportunities for students after graduation. On October 8 we

flew from Tegel Airport to Sapporo, located on the northernmost Japanese island Hokkaido. Upon arrival, we were welcomed by representatives of Seishu High School and our eight students were allocated to host families. During our stay we participated in their regular English and German classes. In the evenings, students accompanied their Japanese school partners on various city tours, including a karaoke evening. We spent one day at Kaisei High School (Super Science High School) to present our school science projects that we had prepared in English. Since our return on 14 October, we are now in close contact with both schools and are planning the next exchange. On 10 January 2018, a group from Kaisei High School will visit Robert Havemann High School, and regular Skype conferences with Seishu High School are now being planned.



Dr. Alexander STENDAL, teacher, Robert-Havemann-Gymnasium, Berlin



On 15 November 2017, the trio INOUE Satoko (piano), Olivier DARBELLAY (horn) and Noëlle-Anne DARBELLAY (violin) played contemporary music from Germany and Japan with an extraordinary combination of instruments.



Opening of the exhibition “Words from a Foreign Language” with paintings and drawings by Liane BIRNBERG and poems by John BERGER at the JDZB on 27 October 2017. The exhibition will be on display at the JDZB until 31 January 2018.



Opening of the exhibition “The Great Wave of Kanagawa – 36 Views of Mount Fuji” with silk relief paintings by the *Keyakinokai* group at the JDZB on 1 September 2017. The exhibition was on display at the JDZB until 20 October 2017.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Symposium: Global Health II

C: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Tōkyō
Date: To be confirmed in 2018, in Tōkyō

Security Policy Workshop, Track 1.5

C: German Federal Foreign Office; Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tōkyō
Date: To be confirmed in 2018

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

4th Meeting of the German-Japanese Council of Experts on Energy Transition

C: Wuppertal Institute; Henicke Consult; ECOS Consult, Osnabrück; Institute for Energy Economics Japan, Tōkyō
13–16 February 2018

Symposium: Tōkyō 2020 – and then? Olympic Cities and Olympic Sites as a Contribution to a Sustainable Map

C: Senate Chancellery of Berlin; Tōkyō Metropolitan Government (TMG)
Date: Autumn 2018

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Symposium: Demographic Change in Germany and Japan

C: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), Berlin; Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW), Tōkyō
Date: 2nd half year 2018

Symposium: Demography and Health

C: Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), Berlin; MHLW, Tōkyō
Date: To be confirmed in 2018

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Symposium: Digitization of Society, Inclusion and Exclusion

C: The Japan Foundation, Tōkyō
5 February 2018

Symposium: New International Economic Agreements and Data Protection

C: Japan Institute of Social and Economic Affairs (KKC), Tōkyō; Stiftung New Responsibility, Berlin
Date: April 2018, in Tōkyō

Conference: Digitization of Work, Productivity Effects and Demographic Change

C: Institute of the German Economy (IW), Cologne; Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI), Tōkyō
Date: July 2018, in Tōkyō

STATE, ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE**Symposium: Education, Research and Innovation – The Universities' Way Forward in Collaboration with Society. Business and Industry while Enhancing Academic Core Values**

C: University Rectors' Conference (HRK), Bonn; Japan Association of National Universities (JANU), Tōkyō; Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE), Tōkyō
26–27 April 2018, in Tōkyō

Conference: Internationalization of Japanese Companies Put to the Test

C: Free University Berlin; EHESS, Paris; Said Business School, University of Oxford
20–22 September 2018

Law and Politics

C: German-Japanese Association of Jurists (DJJV), Hamburg; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Tōkyō office
Date: Autumn 2018, in Tōkyō

Conference: Science and Society: Institutions, Practice and Perspectives

C: Free University Berlin; German Association for Social Science Research in Japan (VSJF)
23–25 November 2018

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

C: Tōkyō University; Düsseldorf University; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Tōkyō Office
Date: To be confirmed in 2018, in Tōkyō

CULTURE AND CHANGE**German-Japanese Architects' Dialogue**

C: Association of German Architects (BDA), Berlin
Date: from June 2018 onwards

Symposium: 150 Years Meiji – The Function of the West for Social Change Processes

C: University of Halle-Wittenberg; Japan Foundation, Tōkyō
Date: Beginning of September 2018, in Halle

SPECIAL PROJECT**Symposium: Democratization in the Asia-Pacific Region**

C: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō
Date: 1st quarter of 2018

27th Japanese-German Forum

C: German Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; Japan Center for International Exchange, Tōkyō
Date: Autumn 2018

CULTURAL EVENTS**EXHIBITION**

„words from a foreign language“
Paintings and Drawings by Liane BIRNBERG and poems by John BERGER
On display: until 31 January 2018

Dual exhibition commemorating the Tōhoku earthquake of 11 March 2011:
“Tsukuba-Narita 2011/03/13” **Photographs by Jens LIEBCHEN** and “After the End – Architecture between Disaster and Reconstruction” **documentary by Ingrid MACKENSEN**

C: Gallery Springer, Berlin TU Munich
Duration: End of February to end of April 2018

“O-Bento & Built Space” **by Debra SAMUELS and the Boston Architectural College**
Duration: mid-May to end of June 2018

CONCERT

New Year's Concert 2018
KURASAWA Anna (piano) and TAKI Chiharu (violin)
19 January 2018, 7.30 pm

Piaviccello Trio: Denis LOZNYKOV (violin), TOYODA Rio (cello), Oksana ANDRIYENKO (piano)
7 February 2018, 7.30 pm

Reflections. German-Japanese encounters. Concert with members of the Young German Philharmonic Orchestra
C: Young German Philharmonic Orchestra; Werner Reimer's Foundation
6 June 2018, 7.30pm

Kyōto Mon Amour. Jazz concert with UMEZU Kazutoki (clarinet & bass), KIKUCHI Naoko (Koto), John ECKHARDT (bass) and Eric SCHAEFER (drums)

9 June 2018, in the evening (Open House)

READING

Novel “Eigenwetter” by AOYAMA Nanae
Reading and discussions with the Akutagawa Award Winner 2007
C: Cass Verlag
8 March 2018, 7 pm

FILM

„The People Living in Hadenya“ **Documentary 2013 by AGATSUMA Kazuki (OwES)**
14 March 2018, 7 pm

„Tremorings of Hope“ **Documentary 2017 by AGATSUMA Kazuki (OwES)**, followed by a public discussion with the director
16 March 2018, 6 pm

OTHERS

JDZB Open House
9 June (Saturday) 2018, starting at 2 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



Symposium “After the Federal Election – How can Germany, the EU and Japan Strengthen the International Order?” held at the JDZB on 3 November 2017. Following the parliamentary elections in Germany and Japan, well-known German and Japanese experts discussed respective election results, expectations for future German and Japanese foreign policy, and issues related to international cooperation.



German-Japanese Security Dialog held on 14 November 2017 in the Kasumigaseki Plaza Hall in Tōkyō, in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tōkyō), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Tōkyō) and the Japan Institute of International Affairs (Tōkyō). Discussions dealt with the question of how to handle an insecure world order and possibilities for German-Japanese cooperation.



Symposium “Sports, Arts and Inclusion” on 29 September 2017 in the Tōkyō University of Arts, in cooperation with the Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center (Tōkyō) and the Tokyo University of Arts. Against the background of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tōkyō 2020, questions about the social integration of people with disabilities through art and sports were discussed.

Symposium “Germany and Japan’s Role in Global Health” on 12 October 2017 at the Embassy of Japan and on 13 October 2017 at the JDZB, in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), the Waseda Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (Tōkyō), the Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tōkyō).

Dr. Helge BRAUN, Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery, welcomed participants in a reception held at the Embassy of Japan on the first evening.



Symposium “Living Tradition. The Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage” on 7 September 2017 at the JDZB, in cooperation with the Association for the Socio-Culture (Japan), the University of Hildesheim Foundation, the Association of German-Japanese Societies, the German Museum of Technology Berlin Foundation and the Tōshiba International Foundation. At the end of the symposium, participants visited the Museum of Technology. During a guided tour, the individual areas of the museum were presented by curators, with a particular emphasis on the collection of old steam locomotives.