



Digitalization and Trade War – Time for Closer Cooperation between Japan and Germany

Gerhard WIESHEU, Chairman of the JDZB Foundation Council

The world is in a period of rapid technological change. The US and China are setting the pace, while Germany and Japan lag far behind. If we examine this more closely we see the stock markets of the developed economies: more than 85% of listed IT companies are from the US, about 5.4% from Japan and only 2.4% from Germany. China has three global heavyweights with Huawei, Tencent and Alibaba, and a number of other fast-growing young tech companies. These new digital technologies have had a significant destructive effect on traditional business models as they are universally applicable. Established companies, including those in the media, retail and financial sectors, are often now a shadow of their former selves and are struggling to survive. Since 2011, corporate profits in traditional sectors have been trending sideways while music has played a major role in the technology sector with strong gains. The success of the US and China is very much related to the fact that there are different rules for digital products than for other products. Digital products are often company-specific, so there is no secondary market for them and thus they cannot be deposited as collateral for a bank loan. This means that digital business models can be

financed predominantly only with equity - in the US by venture capital firms and in China by the government. In addition, digital products are easily copied, so companies often shy away from the risk of investing and invest too little. In the US, venture capital firms often invest in a whole range of companies, so diversification mitigates the negative effects of individual intellectual property losses, while in China the government uses subsidies to correct this “market failure”. However, in Germany and Japan debt financing predominates and the government has backed off in recent years.

The race to lead the future of technology between the US and China is just one of many trouble spots between the previous global power of the US and the rising power of the Far East, which is about the digital predominance of a market-dominated system over a state-dominated system on a global scale. According to estimates by international organizations, the US is mindful that China could surpass its military expenditures as early as 2035. In other words, the US is still in the strongest position, but could lose it in the years to come. Therefore, the US is prepared to take on high risks in the trade dispute with China and even bring the world



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trade system that has been built up since the Second World War to the verge of collapse. This in turn creates uncertainty for companies around the world and increasingly they are holding back new investments. The collateral damage of this global trade

CONTENT

Digitalization and Trade War	
Gerhard WIESHEU	1-2
Conference Report	
Universal Design	3
Exchange Program	
Young Leaders Forum	4
Events in Autumn 2019	5
Cultural Events in Autumn 2019	6
Preview of Events 2020	7
Nō and Kyōgen Theater	8

conflict is the global upturn that threatens to turn into a recession. In an international comparison, Japanese industry still seems to be doing well, as economic data signals only a slight decline in Japanese industry. By contrast, German industry has fallen into a deep recession. Interestingly, in the financial market crisis, German industry recorded a smaller decline in industrial output of -23.6% in April 2009 than the Japanese -35.7% in February 2009. However, this time German industry seems to be hit harder, especially because of their strong dependence on the automotive and capital goods sectors. In addition, significant declines in exports are weighing on the UK and Turkey. By contrast, Japan's industry, unaffected by the high level of global uncertainty, seems to be investing more in digitization and automation as the aging population and shortage of workers more or less forces them to do so. According to Tankan's quarterly short-term economic outlook, large companies are planning to increase their capital spending significantly in the current fiscal year. However, Japan and Germany have major weaknesses in the "software and Internet platforms" mentioned above, but they do have a strength in hardware, as demonstrated by the world's leading robot deployment rates.

Since the end of the Second World War, Germany and Japan have been close allies of the US, to whom they owe their rapid post-war reconstruction. Despite this natural affinity to the US, both countries should seek mediation to prevent a dangerous escalation of conflict between the two future major powers. Indeed,

cooperation between the major economic blocs is a necessary prerequisite to bring climate change under control, which some experts are even calling a "race for the survival of humanity". The EU and Japan should also seek to work together for closer trade integration with the US in order to stop it moving toward isolation and protectionism. In addition, the signaling function of the EU-Japan Partnership Agreement should not be underestimated. According to calculations, the exports of both trading partners could increase by more than € 30 billion in the coming years. The EU and Japan are showing the world that even today, based on a partnership, modern agreements can be made that benefit both parties. The EU and Japan should also try to re-open technologically to the USA and China. It would be worth considering how joint research efforts are deepened and how the EU and Japan, as a common economic area, can set their own technology standards. A good example of this is the data security agreement under the partnership agreement. At the same time, however, the EU and Japan should keep an eye on the risk of excessive bureaucratization. In the EU, the corporate sector is already voicing its concerns about increasing bureaucracy which threatens to significantly reduce incentives for new investments. Digitalization and automation in particular offer opportunities for the aging societies in Europe and Japan, if they are tackled together.

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Dear Readers!

In his article, Gerhard WIESHEU, Chairman of the JDZB Foundation Council, advocates even closer cooperation between Germany and Japan. In times of imminent trade wars and existential global challenges such as climate change, there are many opportunities for this.

Following on from this, I am pleased to announce that Mr. WIESHEU was recently re-elected as Chairman of the JDZB Foundation Council for a further term of office. I warmly congratulate him. We are grateful for his support and look forward to further cooperation in the years to come.

The 25th anniversary of the twinning of Berlin-Tōkyō in 2019 and the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tōkyō 2020 formed the reference points for the symposium on "Universal Design" in urban planning in Berlin and Tōkyō, which was held at the JDZB in November and is reported in this issue.

As usual, with the year drawing to an end, you can find a small preview of our events planned for 2020. I hope these are of interest and we welcome you to visit us in the year ahead.

With best wishes for the holidays and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Claudia SCHMITZ
JDZB Secretary General

jdzb echo

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Symposium: Tōkyō and Berlin – Universal Design and Urban Development 11 November 2019, JDZB

Andreas EDER-RAMSAUER, M.A., Freie Universität Berlin

The symposium “Tōkyō and Berlin – Universal Design and Urban Development” brought together voices from academia and design, government and industry to discuss ways and opportunities for a truly inclusive, universally usable environment in urban spaces. Establishing equal access for people of all ages and abilities to all sectors of society is an urgent task for society as a whole – both in Germany and Japan – especially in the context of demographic change and its associated challenges, and in addition to questions of attitude based on certain values. In their opening remarks, JDZB Secretary General Claudia SCHMITZ, and Director of the Japanese Cultural Institute Cologne Prof. AIZAWA Keiichi, who participated in the symposium as a representative of the event’s coordinating partner – the Japan Foundation, drew attention to the necessity of Universal Design (UD), if we want to embrace diversity not only as an abstract concept but also in reality. The 25-year twinning agreement between Berlin and Tōkyō and the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tōkyō 2020 provided an opportunity to further promote the subject of UD, particularly in the context of accessibility and inclusion, through opportunities of international exchange.

Two keynote speeches in the first section set the framework for the UD in Japan and Germany conference theme from an academic perspective. In his keynote address, the architect Dr. KAWAUCHI Yoshihiko, a leading scientist and advocate of UD in Japan, made a plea for understanding UD as a continuous process. UD does not know a final goal, but would always strive for the progressive improvement of inclusion and equality. Therefore, it is important to differentiate between the fluid “design for all” and the static “one design for all” in the conceptual phase of projects. The first approach views needs as fluid and requiring ongoing revision and adaptation. This results in a so-called “spiral up” development process,

which always involves the evaluation of a (predecessor) project and the experience of those involved with this project. In his absence, the keynote address of Dr. Wolfgang SATTLER from Bauhaus-University was read to the audience where he emphatically clarified the importance of UD as being less a property of things, but rather a question of interaction and attitude. In particular, he reflected upon human behaviors in dealing with technology.

In the second session, moderated by Professor Pelin CELIK, Professor of Industrial Design at the University of Applied Sciences Berlin (HTW), the views of the Tōkyō and Berlin’s municipal governments of on the implementation of UD were presented. Ingeborg STUDE of the coordination office “Barrier-free Building” of the Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development and Housing emphasized the central role of creating a legal framework and the need to involve stakeholders and disability associations in the various phases of public buildings construction projects. SHINO Kazuko of the Tōkyō Metropolitan Government presented guidelines for the construction of the Olympic and Paralympic Games venues, which especially consisted of incorporating the suggestions of various groups. This included, for example, setting up wheelchair spaces in various areas of the sports facilities. According to SHINO, the city administration of Tōkyō refers to the “spiral up” approach and understands experiences made in the course of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as lessons for the future. ASADA Sun of the Kōtō district administration in Tōkyō added insights into study walks with various interest groups, workshops in schools and specially created UD maps, which provide people with different needs information for moving around in public spaces. One result of all three presentations was that the continuous involvement of diverse population groups and awareness raising must be essential components of public design.

The third session, moderated by the journalist Dr. Oliver HERWIG, presented innovative projects and business models. Dr. KAWAUCHI presented the design of Tōkyō’s Haneda International Airport, in which many perspectives and needs were included according to the requirements of UD even through to selecting carpet patterns. Gregor STRUTZ then presented the work of the design agency Design GmbH, of which he is managing director, in Berlin’s St. Nicholas Church Museum. The aim here was to connect the aesthetic worlds of people with and without disabilities, for example by creating exhibits that can be touched. USHIYAMA Junko, Senior Engineer at Hitachi Ltd. Corporation, presented a navigation app that can be individually adjusted for special needs - from wheelchair users to pregnant women. Routes can be calculated precisely for different difficulties, such as the presence of traffic lights for the blind. André HEIKENROTH explained the “Mobidat” database project, which collects and provides information on accessibility in Berlin. TAMINO Takero presented the inclusion concept of its company Mirairo Inc., which sees inclusion as an economic opportunity in its own work and in advising other companies. Christiane BAUSBACK from N+P Industrial Design GmbH recently spoke about the necessity of including individual needs in the implementation of public transport.

Many lessons could be learned from the intensive discussions. Above all, under the motto “nothing about us without us”, it should be noted that it is essential to ensure people with different needs participate in design and development processes. As Professor Birgit WELLER, Professor of Industrial Design at HTW noted, UD offers a constant incentive for improvement and focused extensive participation is the most democratic form of design at the same time. Last but not least, all people can benefit from Universal Design through the creation of multisensory experiences. The conference provided a variety of insights and tasks for the journey towards a fairer and more inclusive society.



**14th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2019
Summer School with Alumni Conference “The Future of Globalization – Challenges and Opportunities”, 6-15 September 2019**

Report by Kiyō DÖRRER, Business Journalist, Deutsche Welle, Berlin

“Does this always happen here in Japan?” a German participant asks me with surprise and enthusiasm as two otherwise restrained Japanese colleagues take hold of the microphone and sing their hearts out – accompanied by the entire group. “Welcome to Japan,” I grin back. This is the first time for many here to sing Karaoke – or even visit Japan. In my opinion, it’s the best cultural introduction...

The first day of sightseeing is also a first for many of the locals as well: Tōkyō Skytree (highlight: the fearless window cleaner at 450m altitude, very insta-worthy), photo safari at the Sensōji (Lowlight: the whale-specialty restaurant, less insta-worthy), finishing with dinner at a Robata-Yaki restaurant in Asakusa (highlight: feel like Abe and Trump), along with the new All-You-Can-Drink concept, which is also new to many participants.

In total we are sixteen participants. Including government officials from Germany and Japan, two security experts, three that work in the media, one medical doctor and another that works in chemistry. Some are still suffering from jet lag and the effects of the jam-packed sightseeing program, so we gathered on Sunday morning to sit in the conference room of the International House of Japan. Theme: Globalization, Opportunities and Challenges. Shortly thereafter, the question “Future of Capitalism?” was written on the whiteboard for our working group. It’s probably one of the biggest, if not the biggest issue of our time that we should address. Other questions on offer: the future of the nation state, the future of democracy, the future of German-Japanese

relations. And a total of eight hours to prepare – with each group to give a 30-minute presentation, a big call.

We received help from experts from both countries with lectures on the history of Japan and Germany, renewable energies and their expansion in Japan, economic structures and history of globalization, security policy as well as German-Japanese and international relations. But we quickly realized we learned the most through discussions, and we certainly discussed a lot. Do we shift into a super capitalist system or is there a post-growth economy? What options are there for bringing Japanese and German cultures closer to each other? What can we do against the declining number of people voting in both countries? Are we merging into a globalized world without nation states or winning separatist movements?

Between discussions, we had the chance to leave International House. The first company we visited was Fujitsu in Kawasaki to discuss the challenges of digitization and how to deal with artificial intelligence. Again, unanswered questions: how to deal with algorithmic bias? How to make sure that artificial intelligence is safe?

Particularly interesting was our visit to Dentsu, the largest PR company in the world. On the train trip to their imposing business headquarters, we passionately discussed the recent reports about bad working conditions at Dentsu: overtime that drives employees to their deaths, rigid management structures that do not tolerate debates and questions.

And that’s exactly where the discussion round led to later.

TÜV Rheinland also opened its gates for a group of us including alumni on a Saturday, with a tour of the test laboratories in Yokohama. The fact that the prototypes and devices tested there were often hidden and could not be photographed (trade secrets!) naturally helped with our VIP feeling.

Dressed otherwise in casual business attire, one evening did require us to don jackets, high heels and ties - for the reception held at the German Embassy with recently arrived Ambassador Ina Lepel.

Of course, in spite of all the open, serious questions, the program also had time for less serious discussion evenings – about sukiyaki, sushi, sashimi, and izakaya snacks. And, naturally, local drinks were also tasted at our own expense: Calpis, Hoppy, Sake, Sour with green tea and grapefruit.

The alumni conference at the end of the Summer School clearly demonstrated that “nomunication” (drinking + communication) has a long tradition at the Young Leaders Forum and keeps alumni in touch with each other. Many of the participants from previous Summer Schools travelled from Germany to plan the conference and attend the last forum. Several of the alumni told us it is the interpersonal relationships that makes the forum so special. And this applies to participants from our year as well. The shared WhatsApp group icon flashes on my screen in the weeks following the forum often with photos of reunions: whether it’s at the climate strike in Tōkyō, a Rhine tour in Dusseldorf or a spontaneous visit to the Berlin Rathaus (city hall). We remain in touch. And hopefully, we’ll see each other again – singing into a microphone and dancing at Karaoke.





Symposium “The Roles of Germany and Japan in Global Health III” held on 25 October at the JDZB, in collaboration with the Global Health Center (GHC) / Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID, Geneva), the Institute for Global Health Policy Research (iGHP) / National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM, Tōkyō), the World Health Summit (WHS) and the Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (vfa, Berlin).

The symposium was a satellite event of the World Health Summit 2019 and dealt with the question of what has been achieved since the G20 Summit in Ōsaka in June 2019, among other topics.

Prof. Richard SAMUELS (Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) presented his latest book “Special Duty – A History of the Japanese Intelligence Community” at the JDZB on 9 October.

After the lecture, lively discussions with the audience were held with Prof. Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT (Vice President of the FU Berlin for International Affairs and Director of the Graduate School of East Asian Studies GEAS).



Symposium “LegalTech: Artificial Intelligence in Law and Justice – Opportunities and Risks” on 4 October, in Tōkyō, in cooperation with the German-Japanese Lawyers Association (DJJV, Hamburg), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Tōkyō Office), the German Science and Innovation House Tōkyō (DWIH), the Federal Bar Association (Berlin) and Keiō University (Tōkyō).

Photo: Dr. Margaretha SUDHOF, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection and the outgoing President of the DJJV, Dr. Jan GROTHEER.



Workshop “Forefront of UV Light Emitting Devices and Future Expectations” on 28-29 August at the JDZB, in cooperation with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST, Tōkyō), the TU Berlin and the Meiji University (Nagoya).



Lecture by Prof. WATANABE Shino (Sophia University, Tōkyō) and Prof. KOGA Kei (Nanyang Technological University Singapore) on “Japanese and Chinese Concepts and Funding for Infrastructure in South-East Asia – a Comparison” on 5 September at the JDZB.



Exhibition “Morning Clouds” HIGASHIYAMA Kaii – lithographs from the JDZB archive on the 20th anniversary of the death of one of the most well-known representatives of Nihonga painting (JDZB Foundation Council 1985-94). 28 November until 28 February 2020 at the JDZB. (Photo: “Morning Clouds” by HIGASHIYAMA Kaii © v. BRUCHHAUSEN/JDZB)



Silent movie concert “Express 300 miles” (directed by SAEGUSA Genjiro, Japan 1928) on 14 November at the JDZB. The internationally renowned silent film specialist Günter A. BUCHWALD accompanied the Berlin premiere live and improvised, together with musicians of the Silent Movie Music Company.



Opening of the exhibition “SPAGAT – Photographs, Drawings and Installations by KIMBARA Akane and Laure CATUGIER” on 20 September at the JDZB with performances by TAKAHASHI Marie (Viola) and Yoann SARRAT (Breakdance). The exhibition was on display until 15 November.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Conference: Trilateral Cooperation Germany – Japan – Indonesia

C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Date: 1st quarter 2020, in Jakarta

Symposium: The Roles and Responsibilities of Japan and Germany in a Sustainable International Order

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Bonn; German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Date: April 2020, in Tōkyō

Conference: EU-Japan Relations: Beyond the Strategic Partnership Agreement

C: European Advanced Research Network (EJARN), Stockholm School of Economics; Freie Universität Berlin

Date: 5-6 June 2020

Symposium: Perspectives for a Eurasian Infrastructure

C: Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris

Date: Juli 2020

German-Japanese Security Dialog, Track 1.5

C: German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tōkyō

Date: Autumn 2020, in Tōkyō

Conference: Disarmament and the Role of the United Nations: German and Japanese Perspectives

C: Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin

Date: to be confirmed in 2020

Symposium: Global Health IV

C: Global Health Center (GHC), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), Tōkyō

Date: to be confirmed in 2020, in Tōkyō

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

German-Japanese Energy Transition Council (GJETC)

C: Wuppertal Institute for Climate, the Environment, Energy Ltd.; Hennicke Consult, Wuppertal; ECOS Consult, Osnabrück; Institute for Energy Economics Japan, Tōkyō

Date: 18-19 March 2020

Symposium: Bioeconomics

C: JSPS-Club, Bonn

Date: 15-16 May 2020

Conference: Climate-friendly Mobility

C: Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft (IW),

Cologne; Fujitsu Research Institute, Tōkyō

Date: May 2020

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**Symposium: Demography and Health**

C: Federal Ministry for Health, Berlin; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Tōkyō

Date: 6-7 February 2020

Symposium: Aging and Care in German and Japanese Communities

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tōkyō; University of Dortmund; Mitsubishi Research Institute, Tōkyō

Date: 17-19 March 2020, in Tōkyō

Symposium: Demographic Change in Germany and Japan

C: Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Berlin; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Tōkyō

Date: May 2020, in Tōkyō

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**Symposium: The Future of Work and Digitalization**

C: Shinshū University, Nagano; Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology (FIT), Sankt Augustin

Date: 29 October 2020

Symposium: Research and Innovation Cooperation with China

C: Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin

Date: October 2020

STATE, ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE**Panel Discussion: The Current Transnational Environmental Movement among Young People**

C: Aoyama Gakuin University, Tōkyō

Date: Beginning of March 2020

Panel Discussion: Olympia 2020. The Impact of Major Sporting Events on Society, Politics and Business

C: Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tōkyō

Date: 2 April 2020

Conference: Shaping Institutional Profiles in Research, Teaching and Community Engagement

C: German Rectors' Conference (HRK), Bonn; Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE), Tōkyō

Date: 22-23 June 2020

Symposium: Sports Law

C: German-Japanese Lawyers Association, Hamburg

Date: To be confirmed in 2020, in Munich

Conference: Attractive for Immigrants? Japan, Germany and France – A Comparative Study

C: Duisburg-Essen University

Date: To be confirmed in 2020

CULTURE AND CHANGE**Film Screening + Expert Talk: The Hokkaido Universe**

C: German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Berlin; Jomon World Heritage Promotion Office; Hokkaidō Government, Sapporo

Date: 13 February 2020

German-Japanese Architects' Dialog

C: Association of German Architects, Berlin; Technical University Berlin

Date: To be confirmed in 2020

SPECIAL PROJECT**29th Japanese-German Forum**

C: Japan Center for International Exchange, Tōkyō

Date: Autumn 2020

CULTURAL EVENTS**EXHIBITION****“Morning Clouds” HIGASHIYAMA Kaii.**Lithographs of *Nihonga* (neo-traditional Japanese painting) from the archives of the JDZB commemorating the 20th year of death of the artist

On display: 28 Nov. 2019 until 28 Feb. 2020

“Lost in Transformation”

MATSUBARA Katsuhiko and Kyle EGRET

Opening: 13 March 2020, 7 pm

Duration: 16 March until 19 June 2020

CONCERT**New Year's Concert with Ania FILOCHOWSKA (violin), SATŌ Haruma (violoncello) and HISAUE Wataru (piano)**

Date: 16 January 2020, 7 pm

Concert with Contemporary Compositions with Maurizion BARBETTI (viola) and INOUE Satoko (piano)

Date: 27 November 2020, 7 pm

LECTURE**“Kabuki and its Influence in Europe” by Prof. HASEBE Hiroshi (Tokyo University of Arts)**

Date: April 2020

OTHERS**JDZB Open House**

Date: 13 June 2020, from 2 pm

JAPANESE COURSES

New classes start
on 20 January 2020!
Registration on 18 January
from 2 pm to 4 pm at the 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
- 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 cultural events
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



A Berlin audience had the rare opportunity to experience a performance of Nō Theater by real masters thanks to the initiative and contacts of the JDZB. The Tōkyō Ensemble Umewaka Kennōkai performed three classical pieces on the evening, each with its own special atmosphere reflected in costumes and movements of the characters. The main cast members of the ensemble are from the UMEWAKA family, the Waki supporting actors and Kyōgen interlude performers. The UMEWAKA family, which manages the ensemble and the associated foundation, is one of Japan's oldest acting dynasties.

(1) "Shōjō – Midare: Sō Nō mai" (The Spirit of Rice Wine): The first piece revolves around the legendary character in Nō Theater Shōjō, the god of rice wine, in which many legends are interwoven. In this story, Shōjō gives a faithful farmer a jug of rice wine that never empties. The god is represented by two co-acting actors, who always wear a red wig and the mask typical for the character with a laughing mouth and hair hanging across the forehead.

(2) "Kaminari" (The Thunder God): The second piece is a Kyogen, a farce, and tells an episode about the god of thunder falling from the heavens and injuring his hip as he falls. A young healer finds him and treats him with acupuncture. In contrast to the serious pieces, the movements in the Kyōgen are much more dynamic, but the music is more restrained.

(3) "Koi Nō Omoni" (The Last of Love): The third piece is the dramatic highlight of the evening. It tells the story about the unrequited love of the old gardener, Shoji, to an elegant lady-in-waiting, played by UMEWAKA Norika, one of about 200 Nō actresses. The main actor wears the most impressive robe of the evening after he has transformed into his spirit. Several layers of golden, white and black brocades make the viewer think of a snowy mountain.

This was a guest performance held of a European Tour 2019 (Zurich – Basel – Cologne – Berlin) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Cultural Institute Cologne (JKI) and 25 years of Berlin-Tōkyō sister city partnership. An event of the Berliner Festspiele/Musikfest Berlin and The Japan Foundation/JKI in cooperation with the JDZB. (Text: Felicitas BLANCK, cultural journalist, Berlin; abridged text, for the original text please see www.jdzb.de. Photos © Adam JANISCH)



On the occasion of the guest performance of Nō theater, Dr. Annegret BERGMANN gave a lecture on "Nō – Fascination of Minimalism" on 22 August at the JDZB, where she presented the history and the history of reception in Europe of this traditional and lively theater art. Heinz-Dieter REESE of the Japanese Cultural Institute Cologne presented an entertaining introduction in the South Foyer of the Philharmonic just before the performance.