



## Changes in Asia and Japanese-German Cooperation

H.E. Takano Toshiyuki, Ambassador of Japan

(1) The world is closely observing Asia's economic growth in the context of globalization. This growth is having a positive effect on the global economy. Mutual dependence in East Asia continues to increase and is leading to de facto greater economic integration. Against this background, the most recent East Asia Summit, where a clear vision for community building was presented at the highest level, has great historical significance. While a serious discussion with a view to implementing this vision is being initiated, an agreement has been reached, at the instigation of Japan, to establish transparency, openness, and the strengthening of universal values as the principles of community building.

(2) I am often asked about China's rapid economic growth. A blossoming and developing China does not present a threat but rather an opportunity. The trade volume between Japan and China is high, and Japanese investment in China has grown considerably. Competition with China is also undoubtedly having a positive effect on the Japanese economy because it strengthens its international competitiveness. Moreover, by overcoming the problems of non-performing loans Japan's economy is on the road to recovery.

(3) The end of ideological confrontations over different economic systems is the most important geopoliti-

cal change in Asia. China, Vietnam and other communist countries have implemented economic reforms and peace has been established in Cambodia. The end of the Cold War has ushered in a new era of cooperation. The number of ASEAN countries has risen to 10, which has lent new impetus toward economic integration in the region.

(4) In Northeast Asia, the Korean peninsula remains divided, and the Taiwan issue continues to be uncertain. The issue of North Korea's nuclear weapon development program must be addressed. North Korea is the only missing link in efforts to achieve regional economic integration. Japan's policies toward North Korea remain steadfast: we want to normalize diplomatic relations by resolving both bilateral and multilateral issues. The Japanese public feels deep-seated solidarity with the families of abductees.

(5) Japan and Germany often share similar interests in international issues, for example, with regard to Iran's nuclear program, the situation in the Middle East, Sudan, the Balkans, or the war against terror. Moreover, both countries are inextricably linked by their common values of democracy, market economics, and human rights. They could without doubt contribute toward solving energy and environmental problems and enhance the fight against infectious diseases.

(6) In all of these cases, Japan and Germany are in a position to take on a leading role through the UN or G8. Both countries have been actively involved in UN peacekeeping operations since the 1990s. The Japanese people are firmly of the political belief that their country should not become a military superpower. Japan renounces offensive weapons and holds steadfast to the "Three Non-Nuclear Principles." Concurrently, the "Japanese-American Security Treaty" with the USA complements the defense capabilities of our country.

(7) Since the end of World War II, Japan has contributed consistently to the prosperity of the global economy through its efforts in the field of economic cooperation and was for many years the world's largest donor country of official development assistance. Since the 1990s, Japan's engagement in maintaining global peace and stability has intensified. Japan has engaged in UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and

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East Timor and continues to play a role in the Golan Heights. As part of its support for the fight against terrorism, it is refueling the vessels of the dispatched forces in the Indian Ocean. Japan is also providing humanitarian aid in Iraq.

(8) It is absolutely understandable that neighboring people harbor ambivalent feelings toward Japan due to historical issues, but it is necessary to understand Japan correctly. The above-mentioned Japanese activities have absolutely nothing to do with "militarism." This equally applies to the Japanese wish for a reform of the UN Security Council. Japan genuinely believes that it is not only in its national interest, but also its international duty to play a more active and constructive role as the second largest world economy.

(9) Japan and Germany also face similar domestic problems, such as falling birth rates and the associated problems created by an ageing of society, or the necessity to reform social security systems. Further cooperation

between both countries should be strengthened to find solutions to these problems. Bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and technology, investment and youth exchanges are particularly worth pursuing in this context.

(10) The Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) has consistently made exceptionally important contributions toward furthering intellectual dialogues and youth exchanges between both countries. Moreover, JDZB initiatives were taken up during the meeting of the Japanese and German foreign ministers on February 21, 2006. Both ministers expressed the hope that the JDZB would organize a "Deutsch-Japanischer Strukturreformdialog" (Japanese-German dialogue on structural reforms) and "Deutsch-Japanisches Innovationsforum (Japanese-German forum for innovation)" in the future. The Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, as a venue for bilateral intellectual dialogues, is expected to continue playing an ever more active role in such activities.

### Symposium "The Discretion of Authorities and its Control through the Courts", February 11, 2006, Tôkyô

On Saturday, February 11, a specialists' symposium on the topic "The Discretion of Authorities and its Control through the Courts" was held at the National Center of Sciences in Tôkyô. The distinguishing feature of this official event, which was part of the "Year of Germany in Japan", was that this was the first meeting for practicing specialists (judges, lawyers) and academics working in this area from both countries. Topics covered at the symposium included the discretion of authorities and its control through the courts in the past and today. Approximately 50 participants, predominantly Japanese administrative lawyer, but many business people as well, attended the event.

Chaired by Professor Takahashi Shigeru (Hitotsubashi University) and Professor Kanbashi Kazuhiko (Rikkyô University), the symposium commenced with welcoming and keynote addresses given by the Supreme Court Justice, Fujita Tokiyasu, the German Ambassador to Japan, Dr. Henrik Schmiegelow, and the Secretary General of the JDZB, Angelika Viets. Four papers were presented in the morning session: "Court control of discretionary decision-making in Germany" by Eckart Hien (President of the German Federal Administrative Tribunal), "Court control of discretionary decision-making in Japan" by Kawakami Hiroshi (Research Official of the Japanese Supreme Court), "The German teaching of discretionary authority in a European context" by Professor Thomas Gross (University of Giessen), as well as "The Japanese teaching of discretionary authority in a state of change" by Professor Yamamoto Ryûji (Universität Tôkyô).



Lecture by Ambassador Takano at the JDZB on February 9, 2006.

The afternoon session was chaired by Professor Inaba Kaoru (Tôhoku University) and Professor Saitô Makoto (University of Tôkyô), and was then followed by discussions. Discussions were very lively indeed and lasted – with one coffee break – for more than three hours.

The symposium distinguished itself by the fact that on the Japanese side they not only invited Germany-specialists but also experts specializing in American, British, French or European law. The “remarks” of these four experts created a bilateral framework that extended far beyond comparative legal topics of discussion. The wide range of views was also well received by the Germans in attendance. The specialists for German law and those who practice it, above all from the high court and Japan’s ministry of justice as well as the representing lawyers, led lively discussions and made the symposium an overwhelmingly success of substance.

Within the midst of this electrifying atmosphere Professor Narita Hiroyuki from the Yokohama National University then gave his closing remarks summarizing together the results of the symposium.

Participants then proceeded on to the residence of the German Ambassador to Japan, where His Excellency, Ambassador Henrik Schmiegelow hosted a reception. In addition to symposium participants, invitations were also extended to leading public figures who are active in promoting bilateral relations. The approximate 130 guests experienced an evening that contributed to sustaining and deepening friendship between Japan and Germany.

There are efforts underway to make the results of the symposium fully available to the public.

Professor Ishikawa Toshiyuki  
Chûô Law School, Chûô University

### Conference “Deregulation and Innovation in Japan and Europe”, December 13-14, 2005, Tôkyô

In our globalized world every business interaction must conform to an “international standard.” To do justice to this, various deregulation measures have been put in place at the state level and individual companies are implementing global strategies and innovations.

Set against this background, the JDZB organized a workshop and symposium and invited to attend renowned experts and entrepreneurs from Japan and Germany, as well specialists from the Netherlands and representatives from Telecom Finland. The workshop, held at the Fujitsu Research Institute on December 13, 2005, included scientists from the institute and consisted of specialist papers and discussions. On the following day a symposium, open to the public, was held at the “Keidanren Kaikan”, the events venue of the Japanese Employers’ Association Keidanren. The symposium was co-organized by the Fujitsu Research

Institute and the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs, and approximately 300 people attended. Participants analyzed the radical changes of global economic conditions and discussed successful business concepts in view of this development. The President of Shinsei Bank, Yashiro Masamoto, gave a lively and well-received paper on the management style of his institute that is presenting a challenge to the conventional understanding of Japanese management. Worth noting was his point that those countries with small populations such as the Netherlands and Finland have set limits in most industrial branches for entrepreneurial activities that affect domestic demand. Thus, global strategies must be developed from the start to address this problem. In contrast, in a market more Japan’s size, we tend to focus more on domestic demand which blocks corporate development in the long term.

Professor Ueda Kôji  
Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB



### Empress visits children's book exhibition, December 26, 2005

In February 2005 an exhibition of Japanese illustrated books was held in Berlin to celebrate the JDZB's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was accompanied by a workshop. On November 26, 2005, an exhibition of German children's books was opened at the Itabashi Art Museum in Tōkyō, which was organized by the museum in cooperation with the newspaper "Asahi Shimbun". The Bilderbuchmuseum (illustrated books museum) in Troisdorf near Cologne lent from their collection works and documents on Rotkäppchen (little red riding hood) as well as originals by Janosch and other contemporary German authors. Three representatives from the Troisdorf Museum participated in the symposium held at the opening, and led an amusing discussion on the topic of Rotkäppchen with Japanese book illustrators and academics.

Exactly one month after the opening, Her Majesty, Empress Michiko, known to share an interest in the topic, visited the exhibition. Her questions directed at the museum's staff revealed a deep understanding of the subject. She then spoke with exhibition organizers in the museum's small cafeteria and empha-



sized the importance of international exchange in this area as well as thanked warmly those involved for their efforts in organizing the event.

The successful exhibition in Tōkyō ended January 15, 2006, having been visited by approximately 10,000 visitors. Still different visitors will be able to view this collection as it travels to different museums across the country throughout the year.

*Photo above:*

*H.M. Empress Michiko visiting the exhibition, with Prof. Ueda Kōji, Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB, and the Manager of "Cultural Projects" Department of the Asahi Shimbun, Kojima Akio (right).*



*Photo left*

*Professor Viktoria Eschbach-Szabo (Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen) during her lecture on the topic "Japanese Loan Words in German" held on January 13, 2006, at the JDZB.*

*Prof. Eschbach-Szabo gave a lively talk on Japanese influences in the German language, how the language imports such as kanban and kaizen in economics, manga and anime in popular culture, as well as futon, pokemon and tofu have found their way into everyday life.*

### Establishment of the "Takenoko-Fond" for the promotion of student exchange, December 19, 2005

Thanks to funding by DaimlerChrysler AG, the Takenoko-Fond was established to promote the exchange of high school student exchanges between Japan and Germany. The signing of the agreement with the Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, which will administer the Takenoko-Fond, was held in the residence of the German Ambassadors and witnessed by the Vice Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yamanaka Akiko, and the Secretary of State of the German Foreign Office, Georg Boomgaarden. To facilitate the student exchange between both countries, travel expenditure will be covered by the Fond (but not accommodation costs). Approximately 40 students from Japan and 40 from Germany shall participate each year, with no limitations set for period of travel. The only condition is that they use home-stays or other accommodation arranged by high schools that have already established contact with each other.

For further information, please contact the JDZB (German-Japanese YouthExchange, Email: [hmakino@jdzb.de](mailto:hmakino@jdzb.de) or [nmiura@jdzb.de](mailto:nmiura@jdzb.de)).



from left: Keisuke Egashira (Chairman of the Board of Mitsubishi Fusô Truck and Bus Corp.; Harald Boelstler, President and CEO, Mitsubishi Fusô; Georg Boomgaarden, State Secretary of the German Foreign Office; Yamanaka Akiko, Vize-Minister, Foreign Ministry of Japan; Prof. Ueda Kôji, Deputy Sekretary General of the JDZB; Ambassador Dr. Henrik Schmiegelow, German Embassy to Japan; Wolfgang Dietrich, Senior Representative, DaimlerChrysler AG.



Participants at the conference "Higher Education Reform in Japan and Germany – Taking Stock and Looking Ahead," held on February 28 in Tôkyô within the framework of „Germany in Japan 2005/2006," organized by the JDZB in cooperation with the German Rectors' Conference and the Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange. A conference report will be published in the next *jdzb echo*.

**Dr. Thilo Graf Brockdorff**

(February 6, 1934 – December 24, 2005)

Former Secretary General of the Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin (JDZB), Dr. Thilo Graf Brockdorff, passed away on December 24 last year.

For 13 years Graf Brockdorff stood at the helm of the JDZB, which was established in 1985, and energetically promoted the Center in the Japanese and German public spheres. He was in charge of forming the JDZB's most important activities and establishing the foundations of the institute that we know today. It was overwhelmingly thanks to his efforts that the JDZB's secretariat was placed in charge of important bilateral advisory committees such as the German-Japanese Forum or the German-Japanese Cooperation Council for High Tech and Environmental Technology (discontinued in 2002). During the period that Graf Brockdorff served as Secretary General, the building of the former Japanese Embassy, located in the Berlin borough of Tiergarten and which had housed the JDZB since 1987, was reassigned its original purpose with the JDZB relocating to its new home in Berlin-Dahlem.

After leaving the JDZB in 1998, Graf Brockdorff held many distinguished positions in German-Japanese friendship and exchange committees, among others he served as President of the German-Japanese Association Potsdam and the Association of German-Japanese Societies. He worked tirelessly to consistently deepen and expand bilateral relations, whereby youth exchange lay particularly close to his heart. He was greatly respected for his work not only in Germany but also amongst all the Japanese-German Associations located throughout Japan and by the Japanese in general who shared an interest in Germany. In recognition of his services, the government of Japan awarded him the "Silver Bowl with Chrysanthemum Crest".

The funeral of Graf Brockdorff was held quietly before the New Year on December 30, 2005, in a small place near Bonn. It was a farewell for close friends and family. May he rest in peace.

**THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF  
THE JDZB**

The Society of Friends is a registered association residing in the JDZB. Its aim is to support the JDZB and its activities conceptually, financially and socially. For the selection and determination of concepts and projects of the JDZB and for their realisation, specialised work groups have been formed for the topics "Natural and Engineering Sciences". and "Economics and Politics".

The Society of Friends invites companies and institutions, which are interested in German-Japanese cooperation, to become a member and help to work for the success of the JDZB.

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The JDZB has decided to continue publishing a printed version of *jdzb echo*, thus changes to dispatch will not be made.

Thank you to those who sent in their e-mail addresses; we will retain this information for a possible electronic dispatch at a later date.

 **Germany in Japan  
2005/2006**

Germany has presented itself from spring 2005 to spring 2006 in Japan, focusing on three pillars: science, economy, and culture. URL:

<http://www.doitsu-nen.jp>

2005  
2006

Deutschland  
in Japan  
日本における  
ドイツ



**THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE JDZB**

The Association for the Promotion of the JDZB is a registered association residing in Berlin, its responsibilities embrace all of Germany. Its main tasks are the suggestion of projects for the JDZB, financial support in order to realize the activities of the JDZB, and the promotion of public relations of the JDZB. The association cooperates closely with the "Society of Friends of the JDZB", and is also supported by the Japanese Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Düsseldorf. Membership is open to Japanese enterprises, organisations and individuals.

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## NATURAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES

**Symposium: Development into a Biomedical Metropolis: Experiences from Centers in Kobe and Singapore**

C: Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences  
Date: March 27, 2006

**Junior Experts Exchange Program with Workshop**

C: German Ministries for Education and Research and for Economics, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tôkyô)  
Date: June 15–26, Workshop on June 24

**Geo Weeks Kyôto**

C: GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam, The JDZB's Society of Friends' Natural and Engineering Sciences Group  
Date: September 2006

**Chernobyl Medical Research Symposium at Twenty: Scientific Evidence and Novel Therapy for Radiation-exposed Victims**

C: Nagasaki University; WHO, Geneva  
Date: November 30, 2006

ECONOMICS, POLITICS, LAW  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**Lecture by Tanaka Hitoshi (Japan Center for International Exchange): Strategic Partnership between Asia and Europe – One Decade of Relations between Asian and Europe and Outlook on the upcoming Decade.**

Date: March 21, 2006

**Workshop: Good Urban Governance – Capacity Building for the Future**

C: InWent, Berlin; JICA, Tôkyô  
Date: April 3–4, 2006

**Seminar: Policy Coherence towards East Asia: Development Challenges for OECD Countries**

C: OECD Development Center, Paris; Asian Development Bank, Frankfurt  
Date: April 11, 2006

**Workshop: Germany in the Japanese Media – A Review of "Germany in Japan 2005/2006"**

C: International Communication Flow Project (ICFP, Tôkyô); German Embassy, Tôkyô  
Date: May 27, 2006 in Tôkyô

**Conference: Business Location Eastern Europe – A Comparison of Japanese and German Experiences**

C: Keizai Kôhō Center, Tôkyô; Association for the Promotion of the JDZB  
Date: May 29, 2006 in Tôkyô

**Experts Workshop: Ensuring the Quality of Universities**

C: Institute of Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance, Bayreuth; National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, Tôkyô; Japan University Accreditation Association, Tôkyô  
Date: June 8–9, 2006

**5th International OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) Symposium 2006**

C: Institute of East Asian Studies, Free University of Berlin  
Date: August 24–26, 2006

**Summer School for Young Leaders from Germany a. Japan: East Asian Integration**

C: Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart  
Date: August 27–September 8, 2006

**Conference: The Role of China and Japan in Asia's Integration Process – More than Economic Partners?**

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation  
Date: September 2006 in Shanghai

**15th Japanese-German Forum**

C: Japan Center for International Exchange, Tôkyô  
Date: October 12–14, 2006

**Conference: Homogeneity versus Multiculturalism – Immigration Issues in Japan and Germany**

C: Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation  
Date: November 2006

**Conference: Social Corporate Responsibility**  
C: Institute of East Asian Studies, Free University Berlin; Shiseidô, Tôkyô  
Date: November 2006

**Workshop for Librarians and Information Specialists in Japan and Germany**

C: Japanese Universities  
Date: November/December 2006

## CULTURE AND LIBERAL ARTS

**Exhibition: Transcultural Communication – Posters Germany >< Japan**

C: Academy for Design, Cologne; Nagoya University of Arts; Japan Foundation, Tôkyô  
Date: Opening on March 31, 7 p.m.; Duration until June 30, 2006

**7th German-Japanese Grantee Seminar**

C: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, Bonn)  
Date: July 13–14, 2006

**Conference: Varieties of Democracy**

C: Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg; Japan Foundation, Tôkyô  
Date: September 20, 2006 (tentative)

**Symposium: The Space of the City. Space Theories between Architecture, Sociology, Art and Philosophy in Japan and the West**

C: School of Art and Design, Zurich  
Date: October 19–20, 2006

**Symposium: Kokoro or Heart: Site, Space and Situation**

C: Center of Philosophy, University of Tôkyô (UTCP)  
Date: November 2–3, 2006

For more information please refer to:  
[www.jdzb.de](http://www.jdzb.de) --> Activities

## NOTE

C: = in cooperation with  
Venue: JDZB, if not stated otherwise.

**JDZB Open Day on  
Saturday, September 2, 2006**

From 2 p.m.  
Open House with cultural program  
From 7 p.m.  
Japanese Evening with Music and  
Theater

*Please call (030) 839 07 123 to  
register for the evening program*

Course	Date	Weekday	Time
Elementary 1a/b	25.10.2005–28.09.2006	Tue+Thu	17.30–19.30 hrs
Elementary 2	24.10.2005–27.09.2006	Mon+Wed	17.30–19.30 hrs
Intermediate 1	25.10.2005–28.09.2006	Tue+Thu	17.30–19.30 hrs
Intermediate 2	26.10.2005–27.09.2005	Wed	17.30–19.30 hrs
Intermediate 3	24.10.2005–25.09.2006	Mon	17.30–19.30 hrs
Advanced	26.10.2005–27.09.2006	Wed	17.30–19.30 hrs
Work Group Translating	to be decided		17.30–20.30 hrs

*(No courses on public holidays, easter break April 10 until April 24, 2006)*

**New Publications of the JDZB:**

- A bilingual (German/Japanese, with English summary) commemorative volume (Festschrift) documenting the work of the JDZB has been published to celebrate the JDZB's 20th anniversary. Order by directly contacting the JDZB by e-mail.

- In cooperation with the Japanese-German Association in Tôkyô a bilingual (German/Japanese) work titled „Brückenbauer - Pioniere des japanisch-deutschen Kulturaustausches“ (Bridge builders – pioneers of Germany-Japan cultural exchange) has been published. Table of contents and how to order:

<http://www.iudicium.de/katalog/539-1.htm>

**Caution! E-Mails**

Due to the number of spam mail received, our server will reject E-mails from hotmail.com and yahoo.com; this may also apply to certain attachments.

If you encounter any difficulties sending E-Mails to the JDZB, please call or send a fax. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**NOTE**

Conventional Chinese, Japanese and Korean proper name order is generally followed in all texts: family name first.

**THE LIBRARY OF THE JDZB**

The library possesses more than 9,700 volumes, of which approximately 60% are in Japanese. The emphasis lies on reference works such as encyclopedia, dictionaries, statistical data etc. In addition, textbooks and special literature on areas such as Japanese economics, politics, society and culture also make up the collection. The library is a reference library only; it is therefore not possible to lend out books. However, a photocopier is available for required literature. The library has the following opening hours:

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

For further information, please contact the Head of the Library Dr. Kuwabara.

**LANGUAGE COURSES**

Information on all new JDZB language courses and other Japanese language courses are in the brochure "Nihongo – Learning Japanese in Berlin", which is published every September and can be obtained from the JDZB.

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The JDZB is located in Dahlem (ward of Steglitz-Zehlendorf) at the corner of Clayallee, vis-a-vis the station Oskar-Helene-Heim of subway line U 3.