

jdzb echo



The JDZB Contribution to “Germany in Japan 2005/06” What Was and What Remains?

Angelika Viets, Former Secretary General of the JDZB



The JDZB, which promotes scientific encounters between Japan and Germany in the fields of economics, science, politics and culture, executed in Japan for the event year “Germany in Japan 2005/2006” what it normally does in Germany – and thus contributed to the success of the ‘Year of Germany’ by organizing a total of 17 events in Japan. The target groups were principally young scientists from diverse disciplines, but also economic multipliers as well as for the first time increasingly non government organizations (NGO) as well.

The highlights of this event marathon, measured by the significance of the topic and the response in the media and the number of participants, were among others:

- The inaugural event of the “Science Pillar”: a conference on the environment and science that presented the whole spectrum of German environmental research and opened up ways for new cooperative efforts in the sciences;
- A well-attended conference on the topical issue of “family policy” that was extensively reported in the *Yomiuri Shimbun*;
- An economic symposium jointly organized by the management consultancy firm Roland Berger and the newspapers *Nikkei Shimbun* and *Handelsblatt* with more than 650 participants on the topic “German and Japanese Responses to the Challenges of Global Competition.” At this event the chairs of the German com-

panies SAP, Henkel, Lufthansa, EADS, Trumpf and Deutsche Post and the Japanese companies Marubeni and Fuji Photo Film underlined opportunities to access markets in an age of increasing globalization;

- A conference on university reform in Japan and Germany that dealt principally with future cooperation in order to improve the international attractiveness and competitiveness of both countries’ universities;
- A panel of experts followed by a charity concert and then a public conference on the topic of “Homelessness in Japan and Germany” with NGO representatives from Japan and Germany who discussed different strategies such as “help through self-help” and “engaging civil society.” The proceeds of the concert given by the internationally renowned cellist Thomas Beckmann will be donated to projects for the homeless in Japan.

Since the JDZB has no representative office in Japan, the implementation of these projects carried with it considerable additional logistic efforts as well as financial expenditures, but we were happy to shoulder these burdens. Still, it is reason enough to draw a short balance before the events’ year becomes history and to ask: Was it worth it? What remains of the JDZB projects?

Naturally, every institution will measure any contributions as successful that required considerable additional efforts,

and subjectively these evaluations will be correct, even if only because they successfully coped with logistical challenges! However, according to criteria and targets set by the German Foreign Office during its planning of the ‘Germany Year’, we must, as other cooperation partners of the event year have reminded us, carry out within periodic intervals new surveys gauging a possibly positively updated image of Germany and examine export statistics. This is why we gladly welcome a new study on German-Japanese cultural relations as planned by the Robert Bosch Foundation in cooperation with the Institute for Foreign Relations, even when with increasing temporal distance other factors, such as the world soccer championship or a changing economic situation in Japan, will begin to overtake and may thus distort the overall results.

Objective and unified assessment criteria and guidelines to measure “success” will never exist – which is why we should recall here once again the aspect of sustainability that was valued so highly by many of the collaborators. Particularly

CONTENT	
JDZB Contribution	1-5
Conference Reports	6-13
JDZB Science Award	14
Preview of Events 2006	15-16

promising in this respect appears to be the social issues of homelessness and family policy, scientific cooperations as well as exchanges of individuals. The opportunities for further cooperation in very promising follow-up projects are outlined in the following pages.

We have called to life two larger exchange programs for young multipliers – the “Takenoko-Fond” for the exchange of high school students supported by DaimlerChrysler AG and the “Summer School for Young Leaders” organized in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Foundation. Inspired by this new future-oriented program, the JDZB will try to win over new comrades-in-arm for German-Japanese youth exchange to expand the foundation for the coming generation of German-Japanese multipliers. I am sure we will incite the enthusiasm of other companies for this purpose!

I would like to say my goodbyes and end with these optimistic evaluations after leading the JDZB for four years with the end of my sabbatical from the German Foreign Office to which I now return, and to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and the interest you have shown in the work of the JDZB.
(successor since Aug 15: Dr. Friederike Bosse)



Dr. Schneider with homeless people at Osaka Castle (Photo: Yomiuri Shimbun).

Society

The Symposium “Homelessness in Japan and Germany” (organizer: Osaka City University Research Plaza Committee, JDZB, Goethe Institute Osaka, with support from the Yomiuri Shimbun) was held on March 4, 2006, at Osaka University. In-depth discussions were held during the experts’ conference held in the morning and the panel discussion during the afternoon. After the first part of the symposium the internationally renowned cellist Thomas Beckmann performed a charity concert.

Dr. Stefan Schneider (founder of the Association “mob – obdachlose machen mobil” (homeless get moving) on his impressions and on possible future cooperation:

At the conference I not only gave a talk but I also participated in a two-day intensive information program organized by our Japanese hosts. The program they organized gave us a chance to visit personally several institutes in Osaka where we quickly experienced for ourselves the prevailing problems that were then discussed at the conference. For example one such problem was the dilemma of mediating between the homeless and the rest of society which acts as if homelessness does not exist. It was a great success that a conference on such a topic was held in the first place.

One of the impressions that remain strongly in my mind was a queue of homeless people in Kamagasaki where

perhaps 1000 people were waiting for a place to sleep at the official agency for the homeless - it reminded me of photos taken in Berlin in the 1920 and 30s. I was also deeply touched by an invitation extended to me by a homeless person to have a cup of coffee inside his tent pitched in the palace gardens in Osaka. After my visit to Japan I now see Germany with other eyes. For example I realized that Japanese homeless people wish to “belong.” Put another way you could say that 80% of homeless people in Japan do not wish to be excluded from society, whereas 20% have resigned themselves to their circumstances – in Germany I would say that the percentage is exactly the reverse. This could mean that there is a greater precondition for self-help measures.

Many questions must be dealt with in more details, e.g., how does the social welfare system function in Germany, can Japan learn anything? And the opposite: why does homelessness exist despite supposedly functioning social systems? Nevertheless, the social phenomena of homelessness should not just be dealt with in a Germany-Japan context but should be seen as an international problem that is part of globalization, and view social problems in a global context. I would gladly welcome a return visit by a Japanese delegation to Germany, perhaps with Berlin as their focus. We could organize a program that could include for example visits to city boroughs with contentious focal points, innovative model projects, interviews with social policy makers and academics, and a forum to continue dialogue.

I would be very interested in becoming involved in this task because I believe that personal interactions and exchange are important. Those of us who work with homeless people do so with high levels of personal commitment; we see much suffering. If you’re involved then there is a great need to be able to say something and engage in discussions that reach beyond the limitations of language and cultural boundaries.

Society

Within the framework of the 'Year of Germany' event, a scientific colloquium was held in Tsukuba, Japan, on March 9 and 10, 2006, on the topic "Family policy in the aging society – A German-Japanese comparison." The results of this colloquium were introduced and discussed on March 11, 2006, in a larger symposium in the Yomiuri Hall in Tôkyô. The event was co-organized by the JDZB, the German Institute for Japanese Studies, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law in Munich.

The highly interesting papers and discussions in Tsukuba and Tôkyô in March 2006 made it clear that family policy is a topic of great importance and highly relevant to both Japan and Germany. Both countries have much to catch up on in the area of public discussions and policy instruments. By analyzing the papers given and discussions held at the March event we will be able to determine which special issues are most relevant and promising for the continuation of German-Japanese dialogue. There are already quite positive signals that various approaches are possible. On the one hand we can focus more on questions concerning the importance of family-related work in the aging society, such as caring for family members. On the other we can continue discussions about the various possibilities for family-friendly policies through a comparative study of Japan and Germany that begun in Tsukuba and Tôkyô.

In our continuation of joint efforts we must also consider which other parties from the Japanese and Germany sides should and could be won over for further cooperation. The German Federal Ministry for Families should play a more active role on the German side. And we should also aim to include the Friedrich Ebert

Foundation. We are planning to hold a seminar in Germany in the fall of 2007 that will deal with the special issues related to the fields of family policy.

Professor Bernd Baron von Maydell
Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich.

University Reforms

The university systems in Japan and Germany have undergone changes in the past few years. In view of global and national challenges, far-reaching reforms are being implemented in both countries that are expected to contribute toward greater competitiveness and stronger university profiles on the international education market. Despite different education systems and various impetuses of the reform processes, numerous commonalities were able to be identified at two events dealing with this cluster of topics that make it worthwhile to intensify cooperation between Japan and Germany in the field of university reform.

During the conference "University Reform – Taking Stock and Looking Ahead" that was organized with the cooperation of the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK) (university rectors conference) and the Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE) on 28 February in Tôkyô, German and Japanese rectors signed a joint declaration to continue dialogue. Questions of course accreditation, promoting the mobility of students and researchers are just a few examples of common interests.

While the conference in Tôkyô dealt with the autonomy of universities, the financing of university education, the structural reforms in the field of teaching and research as well as the internationalization of universities in both countries, the experts' workshop was dedicated to "Quality and responsibility – universities

in the area of tension of self-creation and control", another aspect of the reform process: the evaluation and accreditation of study courses. In mid June university representatives and experts from various evaluation agencies such as AQUIN (Akkreditierungs- Zertifizierungs- und Qualitätssicherungs-Institut, Bayreuth), NIAD-UE (National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, Tôkyô) and JUAA (Japan University Accreditation Association, Tôkyô) met in order to sound out future fields of cooperation. Both sides showed a great interest in discussing fundamental questions related to organizational and technical issues. It was agreed that the representatives from NIAD-UE shall travel in the next few months to visit AQUIN in Bayreuth in order to familiarize themselves with the finer details of the evaluation process in Germany, a return visit of AQUIN to Japan is also being planned. The establishment of a joint research and development group was considered as a medium-term goal.

Tatjana Wonneberg
JDZB Project Management



Logo and mascot of the German Year

Students Exchange within the Framework of the "Takenoko Fond"

Among the JDZB's many undertakings and events in the most diverse areas there is one program that stands out because of its special character – the exchange of youth from Japan and Germany. Because this special program, more than any other, is directed solely at young people it is a present activity oriented toward the future, one that is aimed at improving Japanese-German relations over the coming decades. Exchange programs that enable many Japanese and German youths to visit the other country have been an integral part of the JDZB for many years. The German participants attend a preparatory course where former participants report on their experiences and offer practical tips. In Germany where – in contrast to Japan and the USA – the concept of alumni associations is only weakly developed, these preparatory courses have a groundbreaking character. In a sense, they are in themselves testimonies of the deep impressions with which their stays in Japan or Germany left the participants. The JDZB is happy to serve in every respect as a "site of encounters" where experiences can be passed on and networks can be built and expanded.

Now – as one of the results of the 'Year of Germany' – and in addition to programs carried out to date, the Takenoko Fond has been established with funds from DaimlerChrysler AG that will allow it to operate over a period of three years. Within the framework of this generously supported program, each year approximately 50 participants from Japan and Germany will be sent to the other country. Prerequisites to participate in this program that is directed exclusively at high school students are familiarity with the language and culture of the other coun-

ry and established contacts with high school students in the host nation. These requirements are preconditions for a multi-week home stay, which is why the Takenoko Fond only has to provide funding for flight costs and is able to send such a large number of high school students from both sides to the other country. This does not mean however that we should insist that everybody who went on the journey is required to host a visitor in return. – The exchange should be understood more flexibly. A further aspect must be taken into account: because limited funds should be shared among as many high school students as possible, it would not be in the spirit of the program if the exchange was only between two groups. In fact this year we have already received a huge number of applications.

One of the first attempts within the framework of this project was the visit of Japanese and German high school students to the other country during the event 'Year of Germany'. Both sides sent three groups each that clearly profited from their sojourn abroad. For example,

one group of students who are learning Japanese in Berlin performed their own theater piece they had written in Japanese. The goal of the piece performed in the Myōjō Gakuen School in Tōkyō was to introduce the daily life of a Berlin high school student and to mediate their view of life to same-aged Japanese students. The final report written by the participating students includes the following passage: "The Japanese high school students obviously enjoyed our performance and when we called for them to come and dance with us in the last scene they were happy to do so. [...] They then invited us to watch them perform a drum concert that was totally amazing." The report then outlines how the students participated over the following days in various exchange activities within the framework of the joint program, enabling them to deepen friendships and develop them further on a personal level. It appears that these students were left with a deep impression of Japan. At any rate they put together a magnificent photo album with a very impressive layout that would make even a publishing company of photo



and illustrative works proud. When I look at this album I can sense what feelings must have gone through and moved the youth when they visited Japan.

This theater performance was without a doubt a special case, but the other groups also took home deep impressions from their stay in the other country. One group of students from a hearing impaired school that visited Berlin organized after their return an exhibition which vividly documented their impressions of Berlin. This clearly revealed that the Japanese as well as the German high school students were driven by the desire to share their impressions with their fellow students, each depicting them by relying on their specific strengths.

In this way these high school students, i.e., people who are at an age when they are very emotionally impressionable and are interested in just about anything, were able to have many extraordinary experiences and to digest them within a very short period of only two or three weeks. For this reason it is especially important that they come into contact with other cultures at this age.

We often hear about how, long before mobility reached its current level, people became friends on the basis of exchanging letters and how this developed into life-long friendships. In the current age – an age of highly developed opportunities of correspondence and news transference – it is not only possible to actually meet other people but also to experience their daily life and *joi de vivre* and to promote mutual understanding with the help of modes of communication such as e-mails. Contacts that are formed with such direct encounters from the start and offer the possibility for development into more intensive relations, are not the stuff of short-term, one-off

enthusiastic alliances. Rather they build the basis for an ongoing relationship and in this sense they are a gift given to us via the 'Year of Germany.' The JDZB will follow closely the further development of these relationships and concurrently make efforts to enable a larger number of encounters like these to take place in the future.

Prof. Ueda Kôji
JDZB Deputy Secretary General

Bridge Builders – Pioneers of German-Japanese Cultural Exchange

At the beginning of the 'Year of Germany' in Japan the JDZB presented a bilingual book "Bridge Builders – Pioneers of German-Japanese Cultural Exchange"(1) which was created in our institute following a suggestion put forward by our former President, former Ambassador Kimura Keizô, in cooperation with the Japanese-German Association Tôkyô.

The biographies published in this book tell the stories of the men (and unfortunately it is only men) who built "bridges" between Japan and Germany starting at the beginning of the Meiji Period by teaching or mediating, researching or expanding knowledge in some form or another, or established and maintained contacts etc. The biographies were originally published in Japanese in the "Brücke," the newsletter of the Japanese-German Association Tôkyô. The idea was to make available the biographies to German readers by translating and editing the texts and then compiling them into a book.

After receiving many positive responses we can see that our book has become a respectable (when not entirely complete), exciting and in part amusing reference work for bridge builders between Japan and Germany.

The book basically covers the Meiji, Taishô and early Shôwa Periods, i.e., the period from the late 1860s to the end of the 1920s. And we are now planning to publish a second book with brief biographies of the men and women who then crossed the bridge after its completion, utilized existing contacts and either further expanded them or contributed otherwise to the exchange between Japan and Germany. Of course these texts still need to be written; authors may be JDZB staff as well as members of boards and institutions that are affiliated with the JDZB, or other people who are familiar with the topic or share an interest in it. This book would document the exchange in the modern era, in which the JDZB has become considerably involved, and we are planning to publish it in the year 2010 when the JDZB celebrates its 25th anniversary.

JDZB Language Service

(1) Japanese-German Center Berlin/Japanese-German Association Tôkyô (Editors): *Brückebauer – Pioniere des japanisch-deutschen Kulturaustausches*. Munich 2005.

Workshop "Germany in the Japanese Media," May 16, 2006, in Tōkyō

Several exhibitions, concerts and many more events were held in Japan from April 2005 to March 2006 within the framework of the event "Germany in Japan 2005/2006." At the same time we also examined how the Japanese mass media reported the events of the 'Year of Germany' and whether it influenced the Japanese people's image of Germany. With support from the German Embassy in Japan and the Japanese Hōsō Bunka Foundation, this survey was carried out by the International Communication Flow Project – Japan (ICFP – Japan), a research group that has for many years now examined the image of other countries in Japan as mediated through the mass media (predominantly television). They were not just concerned with the 'Year of Germany' events, but also the type and scale of reports about Germany as well as possible changes in Japanese perception and judgment of the country before and after event.

On May 16 the JDZB organized a workshop on the results that was held at the German Embassy in Tōkyō. After a welcoming address given by Dr. Klaus Vietze, Head of the German Embassy's Press Department and Michael Niemann, Head of the Press and Public Relations Department of the JDZB, the following papers were given: "Overview of the research project," "Results of the television program survey," "Results of the newspaper survey," "Results of survey of other media" and "Results of the public opinion poll." A questions and answers session followed.

32 programs on 'Year of Germany'

During the 'Year of Germany' (April 2005 to March 2006) 756 programs (653 hours and 38 minutes) on "Germany" were shown on Japanese television, of

which 32 were directly related to the 'Year of Germany' (21 hours and 14 minutes), the survey, however, did not include news programs and so called variety shows (news from the entertainment industry, life style etc.) The programs on the 'Year of Germany' included e.g. among others a special broadcast on the "Year of Germany in Japan": Tsutsumi Shin'ichi's two-week tour around Germany (Fuji TV), untitled concerts: the 30 most popular performances of the Year of Germany (Asahi TV) as well as the NHK music festival: the symphony orchestra of the Bavarian broadcasting company (NHK Bildungskanal).

Of the (756) programs related to Germany, sport, music, education, entertainment and many other topics featured. As mentioned above, only 32 programs were shown on the "Year of Germany in Japan," whereby, within the period surveyed up until March, 79 programs dealt with the world soccer championship that did not take place in Germany until June. Music programs were mostly classical, and Beethoven featured especially.

The survey also examined whether the programs mediated a positive or negative image of Germany and the Germans. A negative image was mostly portrayed with the "Nazis" topic. Among those programs that covered in an amusing and entertaining manner the customs and traditions that differentiate Germany from Japan, a few could be assessed as portraying a rather negative image. Educational programs were very common on NHK whilst the commercial broadcasters delivered entertainment programs that in general had very high audience ratings.

Within the context of the world soccer championships the number of programs about Germany continued to increase, even after the 'Year of Germany' had ended. For this reason, the research

group is planning to continue sifting through relevant programs until the end of the world championships and to analyze how this transforms Germany's image.

Varied reports in newspapers about Germany

Articles about Germany were examined within the time frame from April to December 2005 in five national newspapers (Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Nikkei and Sankei), the analysis for the period January to March is expected to follow. Within this period a total of 2,710 articles were published (approximately three million characters) about Germany. Most of the reports appeared in the Nikkei Shimbun, although the Asahi Shimbun did dedicate more space to the topic. There were two definite peaks from May to June and from September to November 2005. The first period dealt predominantly with the 60th anniversary celebrating the end of the war and the desire to expand the UN Security Council, whilst the second period focused on the federal elections in Germany and the assumption of office of Federal Chancellor Merkel.

The research group had already begun analyzing articles about Germany in 1995. Compared to then there was a clear increase in the number of articles published, for example in the Asahi Shimbun. The reason for this increase in articles was because of the 'Year of Germany'.

The articles covered various topics, such as economics, current affairs etc, whereby newspapers did maintain their individual focal areas. Thus the Nikkei Shimbun published many economic reports whilst the Asahi Shimbun published topics more commonly categorized under current affairs or the arts.

News about the development of events related to Germany itself was common, whilst reports about bilateral relations

were generally “not related to special events.” The images that the articles mediated were also analyzed, whereby hardly any negative reports could be determined.

The Japanese think of “cars” and “beer” when they think of Germany

In March 2005 before the ‘Year of Germany’ begun and just before it finished in March 2006 a public opinion poll was conducted about the image of Germany and how the ‘Year of Germany’ was perceived.

When the Japanese were asked what came to mind about Germany, most gave the response both before and after the ‘Year of Germany’ “cars” followed by “beer.” Before the event “World War II” was in third position and “soccer” was fourth, after the event these two changed positions.

8% knew that the ‘Year of Germany’ was taking place before it commenced, and after it had finished 16% were aware of the event. The figures were divided into the following subgroups: twenty to thirty-year olds (20%), administrative employees and scientists/academics (24%) as well as graduates and post-graduates (23%). Most of these learnt about the ‘Year of Germany’ through television.

Approximately 20% of the Japanese “liked” Germany and the Germans both before and after the ‘Year of Germany’. The level of consciousness of German-Japanese relations remained the same. Hence the rate of perception of the ‘Year of Germany’ increased whilst a direct or more stronger influence of the image of Germany, or feelings of sympathy or antipathy toward the Germans could not be determined.

It was thought that the information processed through the media has little effect on change; rather it reinforces the original image and current perception

because it is selectively absorbed by those groups of people who have a greater interest in the first place.

Even the information related to the ‘Year of Germany’ confirmed the tendency that the perception of Germany is particularly high among those who “liked” Germany *a priori*. This survey did not take into account the over 60s age group which is often familiar with German literature, music etc. If a survey was to be carried out on the entire Japanese population no doubt sympathy and perception would perhaps be greater than the current results. The perception of the ‘Year of Germany’ does not however grow with increasing age. Because it reached the highest values among the twenty to forty-year olds, and is relatively high among administrative employees, scientists/academics as well as graduates and post-graduates, feelings of sympathy and perception do not necessarily increase with age. It is quite possible that the greater perception of this group which is in the middle of its working life is due to successful advertising and event activities aimed at this target group.

Survey of the effects of the world soccer championships

Discussions about the papers given rounded off the workshop. In the course of workshop the Embassy recommended the creation of a media strategy directly principally at specialist newspapers and journals that are read by opinion leaders from various fields. They also thought it was important to analyze the contents of comparable media in other countries and those at the regional level, as well as to examine medium and long-term effects in order to interpret and support the results of the current survey. Support was voiced for the suggestion to examine reports that were written after the ‘Year of Germany’ event which were related to the world soccer championships and which quite possibly could have an effect on disseminating a new image of Germany and adding to the number of people interested in Germany. The research group decided to continue collecting data about programs on Germany until the end of the world soccer championships and then carry out another opinion poll. The research results will be published in a final report in the fall.

Hara Yumiko
Secretariat ICFP – Japan



Panel at the conference “Transition and Attractiveness of Central and Eastern European Markets in Enlargement of the EU” on July 19, 2006, in Tôkyô. Organizer were the JDZB and the Keizai Kôhô Center, with support from the EU-Delegation of the European Commission in Japan, JETRO and the Yomiuri Shimbun. The most prominent guest was the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Professor Marek Belka (2nd from right), who described and discussed the implications of the EU enlargement in 2004. Other speakers were Dr. Michael Reiterer (Charges d’Affair of the EU Delegation), Prof. Dr. Alfred Steinherr (DIW Berlin) and Tachikawa Masakazu (Director Europe of the JETRO Overseas Research Department). (Foto: The Japan Times)

7th German-Japanese Grantee Seminar, July 13–14, 2006

DAAD scholarship recipients from Japan who are currently studying in Germany and former German grantees who had studied in Japan met for the seventh time at the JDZB. The group was as colorful as ever at this meeting: economic experts, scientists, lawyers, humanities scholars and artists from the most varied genres were present. Because so many participants wished to present papers we had to limit presentations to no more than 15 minutes so that discussions could follow. One small experiment proved to have very lively consequences: some presentations were discussed in small groups who in turn introduced their findings to all participants. Questions could then of course be directed at all presenters.

That the speakers were able to limit themselves to their allocated time revealed how much effort they had put into preparing their talks. Even a paper on quantum computers, a topic that would be new to most of the people present, revealed how much knowledge you can mediate to an “unknowing” audience

when you consider first for whom the paper is directed. This is interdisciplinarity in action which requires the ability to convey knowledge in an intelligible fashion to a non-specialist audience.

The papers were grouped according to topics. Theater and art were the topics of the first day (masks in Japanese theater; one artist dealt with children’s songs that had found their way to Japan from Europe; another artist interpreted the Ikenobu tradition of ikebana in a unique way by arranging items from 100-Yen shops into flower arrangements, etc). The first paper discussed in small groups dealt with the memories of the era of Fascism or National Socialism in Japan and Germany and with the responsibility that comes to the citizens of both of countries on the one hand through their histories and, on the other, with the role their countries play in the world today. In the afternoon participants discussed literature and philosophy and topics in history and society. One paper on the force of silence drawing on German and Japanese literary examples awoke particular interest as reflected in the lively discussions.

The second day focused once again on history and society. Papers addressed such diverse topics such as changing ways of life through the ages as exemplified in a housing estate in Solingen or different societal ideas of forests. Followers of the humanities and arts were worried that the afternoon could become a little dry with natural sciences, economics and law, but we are all affected by the changing attitudes toward working life in Japan and Germany and, as mentioned above, even the topic of quantum computers met with so much interest that the time allocated for questions and discussions did not suffice.

The enthusiasm with which most of the participants spoke about their work and the interest that was expressed in the discussions was contagious indeed. The openness and well-considered approaches of the speakers toward objections and questions from various angles was very positive and will definitely enhance the publication that will follow this symposium.

Throughout the entire symposium the video installation performance “Bright Future Ahead” by Jan Verbeek was playing in a separate room. What appeared in the first instance as an opportunity for meditative retreat from the hustle and bustle of the symposium slowly evolved: the images that were so peaceful became melancholic and finally depressing – but it wasn’t the pictures that had changed, the video had changed my view of the images.

Inge Hoppner
JDZB Language Service



The Junior Experts Exchange Program 2006

Supported by the JDZB, The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), the Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology (BMWi) as well as the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we, a group of eight young scientists and engineers, were invited to Germany. During our eleven-day visit (June 15-26), we were given the chance to participate in scientific training sessions and come into direct contact with German experts – a chance in a lifetime for many of us. The technologies developed in Germany and the country's cultural assets, the first contact for many of us, were in many ways exciting and impressive.

After we arrived in Bremen on June 15 we visited various research institutes, universities and companies as part of our itinerary that took us to Hamburg on the 18th, Rostock on the 20th and then to Berlin from June 21 to our departure date from Germany. During these travels we were given the opportunity to talk to numerous scientists and engineers and discuss issues related to basic and applied research, as well as ask questions related to the translation of research results into marketable products. In addition, and thanks to the cultural program organized by the JDZB – and even though we were limited by time – we were given the chance to tour churches, historical buildings and museums along the various stops that gave us a first hand impression of German cities and the country's culture and history.

In an era of globalization, where we have access to the most diverse information, Japanese tend to think of Germany – even if they have never been to the country – in terms of words and concepts such as “palace tours,” “Bremen

City Musicians,” “the country with the most advanced environmental protection laws,” “wurst” or “beer.” But the opportunity to actually visit Germany gave us the invaluable experience of coming into personal contact with objects and people on Germany's historical soil, which in turn deepened our understanding which to date had been of a superficial nature. Thus, trams or containers for recycled glass left a strong impression in my mind as a symbol of the raised consciousness for the environment. On the other hand, the discovery of the in part visible and in part invisible problematic facts of life such as the dependency on cars, the inconsiderate littering of cigarette butts, or the pollution of rivers and lakes infiltrated our vision of German culture, a country that normally only has positive reviews – Germany as a leader in environmental protection.

On the basis of the experiences we have gathered as scientists and engineers in Japan, three apparent differences stood out when we examined technology research in Germany.

The first point is related to the structure of the research institutes that are strategically integrated. For example, the insistent championing of the strategy of the Center for Environmental research and Environmental Technology (University of Bremen) and the Institute for Technical and Macro Molecular Chemistry (University of Hamburg) to bring together in the one institute little or moderately known scientists that work in the fields of research and development of technologies in the areas of consumption, waste management and recycling, in to the immediate vicinity of those scientists that deal with the research and development of technologies and processes that lead to the development and production of new chemical substances. Thus, the strategy seeks to establish re-

search centers where the exchange of diverse scientific information related to the environment and green topics can be easily managed (Joint Research Center). In recent times a number of “centers” were also established in Japan to make it easier for scientists working in very diverse fields to facilitate the exchange of information and joint research. Nevertheless during our visit to Germany I was given the impression that the level of work in environmental research and technology occurs on a far greater scale than it does in Japan. And although I think that individual Japanese research on environmental problems – studies on the creation of products (production of chemical substances) and natural science studies (risk evaluations of chemical substances) – has led to results that are every bit as strong as the results in Germany, I still feel that there is a lack of strong leadership in Japan that would bring together (systematize) these results in the medium or long term. I had the same impression during our visit to the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (University of Bremen) which is leading Germany in the field of basic and applied research in the field of “artificial intelligence.”

The second point concerns the cooperative efforts between private companies and public research institutes. Deutsche Telekom, which funds a technology center (Telekom Laboratories) at the Technical University of Berlin, is following a strategy to develop new technologies which remain conscious of the need for the relation between the results achieved by university research and the spin-off it has on human resources. Moreover, those public research institutes that are predominantly working with applied research obtain more than half of their research funding from private companies, which is in contrast to most of the Japa-

nese universities and independent public research institutes who received their research funding from the state. Of course over the past few years there have been strong recommendations in Japan for industry and universities to work closer together, yet we cannot say that there are that many cases where scientists working in public institutes are actually involved in any company-intensive procedures that are imperative for the commercialization of research results and translate them into products ready for the market. As one scientist explained to us in Adlershof located on the outskirts of Berlin, more than 400 hundred joint ventures were established in cooperation with public research institutes. I had the feeling that just this number of companies underlines the difference to Japan where – despite all comparable infrastructures – the number of company start-ups is stagnating.

The third point affects the connection between basic and applied research. When a scientist makes a new discovery in Japan working in the field of basic research it usually takes a long time before it is assigned a practical application and is released onto the market, which is a result – as it became increasingly obvious to me during the training sessions – of the widespread one-sided emphasis on basic-oriented research in technology policies. For example, the Leibniz Institute for Catalyzers (University of Rostock) organizes its research work so that it affects eighty percent of the catalyzers available on the market. According to its own definition this institution understands itself as an institute that seeks to push forward applied research centered on basic research and to promote the publication of research results that can be commercialized within a short time. I was completely amazed at the ability of the University for Applied

Sciences (Hamburg) to obtain external funding, as I was amazed at the entire work culture of this institute where results of process studies on bio-diesel and biogas were primarily evaluated under the viewpoint of their practical application, and that they are currently building an experimental laboratory on the university grounds in cooperation with private companies.

During our visit to various companies and scientific institutions we had the feeling that we saw only the positive aspects of the institutes' organizational aspects and the work environment in which new technologies are researched in Germany, whereas the workshop held on June 24 that was attended by former German participants of the Junior Experts Exchange Program, we became aware again of the positive sides of Japan. The German participants were of the opinion that compared to Japan the



people in Germany had a much more conservative approach to new technologies, which is why it is difficult to win over their trust and to assign new ideas practical applications. They also said that with little financial assistance from the government in comparison to Japan, it is difficult to carry out research when its results cannot be used as the basis for a commercial application. In this regard it is really quite enviable that researchers are allowed to work in peace and without deadlines in the university environment in Japan. These comments were surprising to us because we were of the opinion that in Japan we were working in a situation that tended to borrow from the American or European habit of focusing primarily on short or medium-term goals.

We finished our tour with the remark that we, the members of our eight person delegation at the end of our eleven-day study program, were convinced that the experiences we made in Germany are hugely beneficial for our lives. I hope that we can give other young scientists and engineers an impression of our wonderful experiences, and I hope that the development of new technologies in both countries continues and that the exchange of Japanese and German specialists is expanded. I would like to thank all of those that were involved in the organization and implementation of the Junior Experts Exchange Program and I hope that the bridge spanned between the technologies of both of our countries with this program will continue to be reinforced and further developed in the future.

Oyamada Seiji
Graduate School of Environmental and
Information Sciences
Yokohama National University

Workshop "Quality and Responsibility – Universities in the Area of Tension of Self-Planning and External Control," June 8–9, 2006

On June 8 and 9, 2006, the JDZB organized in cooperation with the Akkreditierungs- Zertifizierungs- und Qualitätssicherungs-Institut (ACQUIN) (Accreditation and quality assurance institute) a workshop for representatives of Japanese, German and European institutions whose task it is to introduce and implement quality assurance systems in universities.

In his introductory paper, Professor Stefan E. Hormuth, Vice President of the University Rectors Conference, stressed that those quality assurance systems of universities must be internationally compatible. For the universities, Professor Johann W. Gerlach, former President of the Free University Berlin, and Professor Yoshitake Hiromichi, Vice President of Tsukuba University, are working on which prerequisites must be met for an optimal planning of a university's quality assurance system. It is imperative that we must have control of the quality assurance systems, and that they cover a wide range of internal and external problems areas such as financial restrictions, social tasks, market mechanisms and questions concerning the environment and globalization.

Professor Ogiue Kôichi (National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, NIAD-UE), Professor Kiyonari Tadao (Japan University Accreditation Association, JUAA), Professor Klaus D. Wolff (ACQUIN) and Dr. Stefanie Hofmann (ACQUIN/Vice President ENQA) then dealt with the goals, structures and modes of operation of controllers of quality assurance systems in universities. The papers' topics were the current system

of university assessment in Japan, a Japanese-German comparative study of quality assurance in universities, accreditation as an instrument of autonomous quality assurance, as well as paths to a European-wide university system for quality assurance. Professor Jürgen Kohler, Chair of the German Accreditation Committee, took a wayward glance at the current standing and then spoke on the control powers of controllers.

Participants were unanimous in the summary remarks of the discussion that the internationality of the scientific communities assembled within the universities must support the internationality of the quality assurance of the university which helps in the realization of scientific performances. The participants agreed to develop over the next few months a project out of the workshop's topic that would investigate further the tasks outlined at the workshop. The project shall aim to intensify contact between Japanese and German accreditation institutes. As an interim step Professor Ueda Kôji (Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB) and Professor Klaus D. Wolff (ACQUIN) will clarify the need for further details of the mutual information exchange, fill in any information gaps and compile materials used in the workshop for publication. Moreover, a continuation of the workshop with the view to establish a common research and development group became medium-term goals.

Professor Klaus D. Wolff
University of Bayreuth, Chair of the Executive Board ACQUIN

A Walk in the Bio-Park: Berlin, Kôbe, Singapore – Cities searching for the industry of tomorrow

The latest catch cry of German technology planners is 'clusters'. When we translate this word literally into German we get something like "piles," but what it means is something along the lines of a focal point. The idea behind it: if we are successful in gathering together enough scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs in the one location, sooner or later quantity will be transformed into quality, and from the mass product will emerge better and new products, industries and jobs will be created. The best example: Silicon Valley. Meanwhile this mother of all technology parks has been imitated at least 100 times throughout the world.

Even Berlin is a cluster state. The abundance of universities, research institutes and the proximity to the pharmaceutical company Schering predestines the city to become a metropolis of bio medicine. One of the driving forces behind this idea is Professor Guenther Stock, the President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. As the former head of research of Schering, Prof. Stock knows what is important when translating scientific ideas into new products. The Academy in cooperation with the JDZB organized a workshop on March 27 this year in Dahlem that sought to deal with the development of a biomedical metropolis and to examine the experiences of the Japanese city of Kôbe and Singapore.

Japan is using a systematic approach to cluster building where they differentiate between two different groups of focal points, as reported by Ueda Akihito from the Foundation for biomedical Research and Innovation, Kôbe. On the one hand there is the 18 "knowledge clusters" with their emphasis on universities and research institutes. The central coordinator is the Ministry for Science and Techno-

logy. The Ministry for Economics is responsible for the 19 "industry clusters."

The focal area of the "knowledge clusters" of Kôbe are the life sciences, the most important focal point is regenerative medicine and stem cell research. The large earthquake of January 17, 1995, not only brought destruction but also a chance for a new beginning – and today instead of traditional industries such as shipbuilding focus has shifted to the development of new therapies. The focal location of the ambitious project is on Port Island, an island off the shores of Kôbe. Clinics, laboratories, medical technology, university centers and new company start-ups are re-locating in this narrow space.

A completely new player in the biotechnology field is Singapore. But the ambition to make it to the first division and become the Biopolis of Asia is even greater. With money and above all with good scientific opportunities Singapore has managed to attract renowned scientists and advisers from around the world. Biotechnology is now expected, at least in part, to inherit the technology industry – a field that is putting Singapore increasingly under pressure with the competition from countries with cheaper labor costs.

The first phase of establishing the biopolis in the years 2000 to 2005 is now concluded, as reported by Alan Yeo from the Singapore Economic Development Board (Frankfurt am Main). The government spent two million dollars on this phase. The second five-year plan is now focusing on "translational" research, which means: scientific results should be translated into medications and thus into economic successes. Singapore wants to build a bridge from research in the laboratories to the therapies administered at hospital beds.

Berlin is pursuing similar plans, although the Biopolis here is called "Gesundheitsstadt" (health city). The central coordinator for the master plan for the "Health Region Berlin-Brandenburg" is Guenter Stock who gave an overview of the perspectives of this branch. And indeed more than 180,000 people work in this sector in Berlin, many of them in the very traditional Uniklinik Charite and in medical research institutes.

Nevertheless Berlin has to deal with considerable financial worries, an aging society and high unemployment levels. Professor Klaus-Dirk Henke, a health sector economist at the Technical University of Berlin, commented that the solution to these problems is increased self-responsibility, competition and market economics. The State should only be responsible for basic health insurance and the rest should be governed by market forces.

It was the job of Professor Roland Hetzer, Head of the German Herzzentrum Berlin (German Heart Institute Berlin) to then provide an enthusiastic and more concrete outline of the plans and concepts for a Biopolis of the future. The renowned heart surgeon presented his clinic's artificial heart program that works closely together with the company Berlin Heart, a developer of blood pressure support pumps. A spectacular highlight of Berlin Heart's work was the transplantation of an artificial heart into a three-month old baby that was saved in a dramatic rescue operation in the university hospital of Stanford. The New York Times created a front page story out of the news. A small heart – a great story.

Dr. Hartmut Wewetzer
Science Editor, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin



German-Japanese Exchange Program for Young Employees 2006. From August 1 to 14, 2006, a delegation of young Japanese employees visited Berlin and Thuringia to learn more about the Germany's education system and working life. With a weekend seminar and a short stay in a host family, the delegates were given various opportunities to meet and talk with young people in Germany. The Japanese visitors tasted Thuringia's culinary culture and the Thuringia dumplings and sausages were very popular. The photo shows the head of the delegation Matsumoto Goro, Director General of the Japanese cooperation partner Nihon Youth Center NYC (standing, 4th from right), the JDZB's new Secretary General, Dr. Friederike Bosse (standing, 5th from right), Prof. Ueda Kôji, Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB (standing, 2nd from right) and Thorsten Hoppe (in front, 4th from left), project manager of the state youth association "Landesjugendring Thüringen e.V." which is the new partner of the regional program in Thuringia from 2006. This project is financed on the German side with funds from the German Federal Child And Youth Project (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes).



Within the framework of the study program for youth workers the German delegation of experts visited Tôkyô and Shunan (Prefecture Yamaguchi) from May 20 to June 3, 2006. Under the heading "Acquiring life competencies, social learning" the delegation visited various institutions dealing with youth work. On May 26, 2006, the delegation was invited to the Imajuku elementary school in Shunan. They attended classes, spoke to teachers and held lively discussions with the pupils. Year 5 had prepared a fun game and quiz questions for the German delegation. The photo shows the German delegation surrounded by elementary school pupils as well as Miura Nauka, head of the JDZB's Youth Exchange and head of the delegation (in front, 4th from right). This program is financed on the German side with fund from the German Federal Child And Youth Project.

The Society of Friends of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) presents the

„JDZB-Science Award“

for achievements in natural science. This award seeks to promote young scientists working in the natural sciences in Germany and Japan.

Eligibility

The award will be presented each year to a Japanese scientist in Germany and a German scientist in Japan (not older than 40) for excellent work in science that, as a rule, is post-doctoral.

Nominations

will be accepted in Spring/Summer each year by the board of the JDZB's Society of Friends. Nominations must be accompanied by a detailed report outlining the reasons for the nomination. The report should document whether the nominee's publications reflect the current state of scientific developments, what contribution he/she made, and which fundamental developments have been achieved. Publications must not be older than two years. When publications have been co-written by several authors, we require a detailed report outlining the nominee's main contribution. Up to five publications can be used to support the nomination. These must be submitted with the report and a CV (five publication samples each). Nominees can be re-nominated. We do not accept self-nominations.

Please send your nominations until October 31st, 2006, to: Tatjana Wonneberg, Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, Saargemünder Str. 2, 14195 Berlin, E-Mail: twonneberg@jdz.de

References

Together with the nomination we require the names of two colleagues – preferably located outside of Berlin (from Germany and/or Japan) who can be contacted as referees and who are prepared to write a reference.

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.

Contact:

Dr. Gerwald F. Grahe

E-Mail: grahe-g@dic-berlin.de

Selection

The winner of the award will be recommended by the Team Natural Sciences of the JDZB's Society of Friends and named by the Board of the JDZB's Society of Friends.

Award

The award will be presented each year in December. The winner will be presented with a check worth 5,000 Euro at a celebratory colloquium.

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.

Membership is open to Japanese enterprises, organisations and individuals.

Contact:

Takeya Munehisa, c/o Tôyô Global Services GmbH

Taurentzienstr. 9, 10789 Berlin, Germany

Tel.: +49-30-264 930 0, Fax: +49-30-264 930 15

NATURAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Chernobyl 20 Years Beyond: Scientific Evidence and Novel Therapy for Radiation-exposed Victims

C: Nagasaki University; WHO Collaborating Centers

Date: November 30, 2006

ECONOMICS, POLITICS, LAW
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**Young Leaders Forum and Summer School for Young Leaders from Germany and Japan: East Asian Integration**

C: Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart
Date: August 27–September 6, 2006

15th Japanese-German Forum

C: Japan Center for International Ex-

change, Tōkyō

Date: October 12–14, 2006

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

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Date: October 30–31, 2006 in Shanghai

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

C: Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation

Date: Week from November 6, 2006

Konferenz: Corporate Social Responsibility – Perspectives on Japan and Germany

C: Institute for East Asian Studies, Free University Berlin

Date: November 23–24, 2006

CULTURE AND LIBERAL ARTS

Conference: Varieties of Democracy

C: Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg; Japan Foundation, Tōkyō

Date: September 21–22, 2006

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

Exhibition: Three Painters from Berlin

Opening: October 27, 2006

Symposium: Kokoro or Heart: Site, Space and Situation

C: Center of Philosophy, University of Tōkyō (UTCP)

Date: November 2–3, 2006

4th Berlin Japanese(Nihongo)-Festival "BeNi-Matsuri"

C: Institutions offering Japanese Courses
Date: November 11, 2006

DAHLEM MUSIC EVENINGS
(7.30 p.m.)

76.: Duo Evening:
Wakamatsu Kiyoko (Piano)
Moon Suh-Young (Cello)
Date: September 29

77.: Trio Evening
Date: November 24

78.: Advents/Christmas Concert
Date: December 15



The dancers Kawaguchi Yui and Shimizu Ayako during the JDZB's open day 2005. Due to their popularity they will perform again at this year's event on September 2.

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.

For more information please refer to:
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 Traditional Dance (Hayashi Eiko) and Dance Theater (Kawaguchi Yui and Shimizu Ayako)

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

Course	Date	Weekday	Time
Elementary 1a/b	23.10.2006–26.09.2007	Mon+Wed	17.30–19.30 hrs
Elementary 2	24.10.2006–27.09.2007	Tue+Thu	17.30–19.30 hrs
Intermediate 1	23.10.2006–26.09.2007	Mon+Wed	17.30–19.30 hrs
Intermediate 2	26.10.2006–27.09.2007	Tue+Thu	17.30–19.30 hrs
Advanced 1	23.10.2006–24.09.2007	Mon	17.30–19.30 hrs
Advanced 2	25.10.2006–26.09.2007	Wed	17.30–19.30 hrs
Work Group Translating	to be decided		17.30–20.30 hrs

(No courses on public holidays, autumn break between the courses October 2–20, 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>

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.

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 almost 10,000 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.

jdzb echo

Published quarterly in
March – June – Sept. – Dec.

Publisher: Japanese-German Center
Berlin (JDZB)

Address:

Saargemünder Str. 2

D-14195 Berlin

Tel.: +49-30-839 07 0

Fax: +49-30-839 07 220

E-Mail: jdzb@jdzb.de

URL: <http://www.jdzb.de>

Editor: Michael Niemann

Tel.: +49-30-839 07 186

E-Mail: mniemann@jdzb.de

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.