

Welcoming Address by the new JDZB Secretary General

Dr. Friederike Bosse

The infamous 100 days have passed since I assumed the office of Secretary General at the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the readers of the *jdzb echo*.

It is a novelty in the 21-year history of the JDZB that I am – other than my three predecessors – not a member of the German Federal Foreign Office. Thus, my career history has had fewer geographical stations than a diplomat's, but has included many different institutional positions. Yet, there has been a red thread running throughout my many stations in my history of employment: Japan. When I include the period that I read Japan Studies at university, I have been dealing with Japan for more than 25 years. After finishing my masters I completed an internship at a Bank in Tôkyô. Following this I worked as an executive assistant in the Hamburg Trade Office of a Japanese electronics company, before returning to Tôkyô, this time in the German public broadcaster ARD's television studio. After 1993 I then worked at the Institute for Asian Studies in Hamburg and helped create the journal "Japan aktuell," in which I was responsible for the observation and analysis of the Japanese economy. The knowledge I gained in this capacity became an important foundation for my next task, the supervision of Japan-related activities of the Federal Association of the German Industry and the Japan Initiative of the German Economy in Berlin. One of the



key area of my work during the five years I spent at the Federal Association was of course the preparations for the "Year of Germany in Japan 2005/2006," as I was responsible for coordinating the efforts of the German economy. The "Year of Germany" was a very ambitious and at times difficult project, but also a very rewarding and successful one. I think it reawakened interest not only in Japan. Rather, it encouraged the German players – from the fields of culture, science and academia, and the economy – to become more intensively engaged with Japan and to re-evaluate their own expectations and strategies toward Japan.

Over the past twenty years I have witnessed recurrent changes in Germany-Japan relations, both with regard to their

intensity and importance, as well as with regard to the main foci of attention. When I began studying in 1981 many of my fellow students were enthusiastic about Asian martial arts or – like myself – interested in Japan's economic success. Today it is the phenomena of popular culture such as *manga* and *anime* that connect young people with Japan and motivate them to learn more about the

CONTENT

Welcoming Address	1-2
Conference Reports	2-8
JDZB Youth Exchange	9
Preview of Events 2007	10-11

country and its culture. In contrast, with regard to the economy, specific strengths are once again coming to the fore following a phase when the interest of both countries was concentrated on other regions with greater rates of economic growth. The leadership in technology as well as the key positions in the regions of Europe or Asia increase the attractiveness of Germany and Japan for each other. In addition, there are several topics on the national and global agendas that make more intensive dialogs between Japan and Germany indispensable, whether they regard securing energy supplies, the environment, climate change, or the capability for innovation as a decisive factor of competition.

The JDZB seeks to address these strategic topics at its conferences and events. To me, it is important to bring the results of these activities more strongly into public discussions. Media relations are indispensable, on the one hand to promote the contents of the topics we discuss, and on the other hand to make the role clearer that German-Japanese dialog plays in this context. It is not easy to draw attention to the JDZB's activities with the wealth of events and conferences held daily in Berlin. But it is important and possible. I am confident that we will master these tasks because the JDZB staff possesses engagement, know-how and a wide network of partners that help us coordinate and carry out the JDZB's activities as professionally and as varied as you, the visitors and friends of the JDZB, are accustomed to – whether it be through youth exchange programs, international conferences or cultural events. It is my – most wonderful – challenge to create the framework for these activities.

Symposium “The Role of China and Japan in Asia’s Integration Process – Beyond Economic Partnership,” 30–31 October 2006, Shanghai

In view of the nuclear bomb tests carried out by North Korea on October 9, 2006, the importance of Chinese-Japanese cooperation has grown beyond the field of economic relations. Only three weeks later, on October 30 and 31, 2006, a symposium, organized in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), was held in Shanghai on the topic “The Role of China and Japan in Asia’s Integration Process – Beyond Economic Partnership.” The symposium included participants from the ASEAN region, China, Japan and Germany. International institutions such as the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation are ideally suited to offer their services as neutral platforms for these discussions – especially against the background of their experiences with European integration.

Prof. Cai Penghong (SASS) described China’s role in the integration process as pursuing a policy of “small steps.” He

thought the East Asia summit meeting in December 2005 in Kuala Lumpur was hardly successful, and he spoke out in favor of a free trade agreement in East Asia as the next step toward an East Asian community. From a Japanese perspective, democracy, rule by law, and market economics are the basic principles for shaping the integration process in Asia. The Japanese Consulate General to Shanghai, Kumamaru Yûji, emphasized the significance of a functional approach over an institutional approach. Speaking from a European perspective, Dr. Wolfgang Bockhold (German Embassy, Beijing) highlighted the increasing loss of national sovereignty toward the EU, a phenomena that is not (yet) observed in Asia.

The following panel touched on all topics that were to shape further discussions. Participants were unanimous that Asia cannot simply copy the EU integration because the historical and cultural environment is different. Since the USA remains an important factor in Asia, we need a common East Asian understanding about the role the USA should play in the region. The difficult relations between China and Japan prompted many, often emotional interventions. At the



Vice Chancellor Franz Müntefering during talks with participants of the 15th Meeting of the German-Japanese Forum that was held in the JDZB from October 12–14, 2006.



The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Shanghai, Dr. Wolfgang Röhr, welcoming the conference participants.

same time, the first official overseas visits of the Japanese Prime Minister ABE to China and South Korea in the middle of October were evaluated as positive signals for Chinese-Japanese relations.

The second session dealt with the various approaches for economic integration. Kawai Masahiro (Asian Development Bank) traced the trend toward free trade agreements in Asia in the first instance back to the sluggish run of the current WTO round of talks. Free trade agreements make it easier to access markets and to promote trade and investment. However smaller and poorer countries are often disadvantaged in bilateral trade agreements. Prof. Ma Ying (SASS) stressed that as a result treaties are signed at a low level. China follows a multilateral approach, for example a China-ASEAN Agreement. Dr. Eric Teo (Singapore Institute for International Affairs) presented from an ASEAN perspective the conviction that further substantial steps toward integration will remain unimaginable as long as Chinese-Japanese relations are gridlocked. Political will or a political institution that thinks imaginatively for the future is indispensable for the process of integration.

The last session of the first day dealt with the role of civil societies in the Asian integration process. Kurokawa Chimaki (Japan Platform) gave an overview on the activities of Japanese NGOs, which are predominantly active in the fields of fighting prostitution/human trafficking, the environment, further education, and emergency aid. Chinese-Japanese cooperation in the field of the environment was the topic of the paper given by Prof. Zuo Xuejin (SASS). Prof. Heiner Timmermann (University of Jena) closed the session with a presentation on the role of civil societies in the European integration process.

With regard to North Korea, the fourth session incited heated discussions about the possibilities for a common Asian security policy. Prof. Liu Ming (SASS) presented the view that China has lost North Korea's trust and thus room for maneuver. China and Japan should work together to move North Korea toward implementing reforms. Tanaka Hitoshi (former Deputy Foreign Minister) quoted the lack of solidarity between the major players as the main reason why negotiations have failed to date. However, if they were to succeed in developing a common stance toward North Korea,

then there would be a chance for a reliable security regime in Asia. Acharya Arbinda (Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies, Singapore) explained the problems that prevent a common security policy, primarily the mutual distrust and the insistence on national sovereignty and non-interference, by way of a concrete example, the fight against terrorism.

In sum, participants were unanimous with regard to the significance of Sino-Japanese relations for any (East) Asian process of integration. Nonetheless, the discussions indicated that the perception that Japanese politicians deal with Japan's colonial history in an insensitive manner, or the instrumentalization of popular resentment to implement political goals on the part of the Chinese government, will continue to influence constructive cooperative efforts.

Tatjana Wonneberg (JDZB)
Natalie Bertsch (KAS)

Symposium “The City Space – Space Theories between Architecture, Sociology, Art and Philosophy in Japan and the West,” October 19–20, 2006

The Dialog of Differences

Four years ago I participated for the first time in a conference at the JDZB. At the time I was preparing my research project “JAPAN swiss made” which was to deal with the image of Japan in Switzerland. At the conference I was hoping to meet new people and learn about other perspectives. I listened to a paper given by Prof. Imai Yasuo from the University of Tôkyô and then invited him to a conference in Zurich. In the meantime he has

standing of space – and the symposium sought to deal with perceptions or concepts of space, which also makes up a definitive part of the research project *city_space_transitions*. *Rôji* are in fact spaces for communication, spaces for encounters. The concept of the *rôji* is based on the permeable nature of Japanese houses in which the private areas gently flow, and with some degree of architectural subtlety into the public areas. The conference also covered the topic of the concrete implementation of an understanding of space in the form of urban areas, and in particular the relation between private and public spaces.

(Institute of East Asian Architecture, Kyôto), *Ma* represents a specific “Japanese sense of space.”

This other Japanese sense of space became clearer in the paper given by the architect Prof. Kojima Kazuhiro, who works in Tôkyô. His “open schools” architecture in Japan very clearly defines the difference between occidental-western and Japanese concepts of space. Kojima tries to renounce walls in his designs; it is more important for him to find out how the pupils move around the building. The movement of the children then becomes the fundamental starting point of his architecture which is formed by the idea of the fluid and continuous transition.



Photos taken of Tôkyô by Jürgen Krusche within the framework of the research project “city_space_transitions.”

The exhibition of these and other photos Zurich, Berlin and Tôkyô were on display to coincide with the symposium that was held at the JDZB.

become a good friend whom I visit in Tôkyô regularly. It was also at the JDZB that I met for the first time Prof. Evelyn Schultz from the University of Munich whom I was then later able to invite to the conference “The City Space.” The JDZB has indeed proven itself to be an interesting and many-promising location for encounters and the exchange between people and cultures.

Evelyn Schultz’s paper introduced something that was once part of daily life in Japan but is now in danger of disappearing: the *rôji* or back alleyways or small side streets. The town planning principle of the *rôji* is to a certain degree the cherished image of the Japanese under-

The concept of the *rôji* is currently undergoing a resurgence of interest in Japan. For example, in his latest book, the Japanese architect Kurokawa Kishô speaks out in favor of revitalizing the idea of the street as a space for communication, and to reintroduce it as a productive element of future town planning of Japanese cities. The suggestions put forward by Kurokawa reflected an important goal of the whole conference: to make people think whether traditional Japanese concepts of space and cities are still alive and whether these concepts could possibly be transferred to western cities. For this reason, the concept of *Ma* was also a central topic of the conference. According to Dr. Günther Nitschke

An approach between the West and Japan was then discussed explicitly on the philosophical level by the philosopher Kobayashi Nobuyuki (City University of Arts, Kyôto), who linked the concept of place (*basho*) by Nishida Kitarô with the *chora* by Plato. In contrast, the philosopher and media specialist Prof. Dieter Mersch (University of Potsdam) remained completely in the occidental tradition – in particular that of the 20th century – but stressed that even within this concept of space we could find traces of what is specifically Japanese. The sociologist Prof. Martina Löw (Technical University of Darmstadt) presented in her paper a concept of space that favors the relation toward the Euclid concept

of the three dimensional body. Prof. Löw also remained solely in western thought and formulations throughout her presentation: but I had invited her to attend this conference because after reading her article "Sociology of space," I thought I could recognize an understanding of the Japanese concepts of space – which she then confirmed to me in informal discussions during our evening meal at the JDZB.

It is here that we can determine a possible quintessential aspect – at least in respect to the intercultural aspects of the conference: we can talk about differences in Western and Japanese thought and in occidental and oriental perceptions of space - which indeed was done very thoroughly by involving the audience – but it is not easy to understand each other's concepts. Or more to the point: understanding is still possible, but to really experience and to realize it remains difficult, as discussions continued to reveal throughout the day.

Nevertheless I am very happy and thankful for all the contributions, even if some were not mentioned in this conference report. I am firmly of the belief that dialog about cultural differences is the most important in the end. Because even more important than wanting to understand the other is to accept the Other and *allow the Other to be*. The dialog of differences must be continued, and the JDZB is an ideal location for this.

I would like to thank all those who were involved in the conference and I hope that – similar to my first conference at the JDZB – new encounters and contacts that reach beyond disciplines and cultures were made at this event.

Jürgen Krusche
College of Design and Arts, Zürich

Conference and Workshop "Aspects of Democracy – Preconditions, Paths of Development, and Contemporary Issues," September 20–22, 2006

The symposium carried out by the JDZB in cooperation with the Japan Foundation, the Ruprecht Karls University of Heidelberg (Department for Japan Studies, East Asia Center) started from the premise that there are currently various forms of democracy and no country can claim that it has already realized the ideal of democracy. The conference revealed that certain internal preconditions and procedures are required to build a democracy. In the cases of Japan and Germany, relatively "young" democracies in comparison to western countries, the "importation" of democratic institutions and the methods of procedure implemented during occupation after the defeat of the dictatorial regimes were decisive. Yet, if democracy is to establish firm roots, a fundamental change in political consciousness of the citizens and



elites is also required. How can we achieve such a change? Through re-education or through building on progressive traditions? Which roles do political thinkers, educators and political education play?

The conference was designed to examine democratic developments in three significant cultural circles, with two countries chosen from each sphere: Germany and Poland as European societies that have developed more or less against a Christian background; Turkey and Iran as two countries from the Islamic sphere

that nevertheless are both special cases: Turkey as a *laissez-faire* state, and Iran as a nation that follows a distinctive Shiite direction; and finally Japan and South Korea that are both not only, but distinctively influenced by Confucianism. Unfortunately speakers could not be found for all topics that were planned, but the papers given did provide a good insight into the problems of "late developing" or emerging democracies. The connection of political science with the historical dimension (prerequisites for the history of ideas, in particular with regard to the separation between state/politics and religion) allowed us to go beyond simple quantitative models that have little or nothing to do with the particular historical path of development taken by each country. Especially interesting were the papers given on Iran (Dr. Katajun Amirpur, Cologne, and Dr. Mohsen Kadivar, Tarbiat Modares University, Teheran) that outlined the traditions of constitutional thought within the framework of Shiite Islam and the procedural

problems encountered in choosing political leadership. Prof. Frank Pfetsch (University of Heidelberg) discussed the development of a democratic constitution at the federal state level under the occupying forces in West Germany; Dr. Maciej Gorny (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) examined the historical role of federalism in Poland, and Prof. Jerzy Holzer (Warsaw) analyzed the contribution of the union movement *Solidarnosc*. Prof. Raoul Motika (Bern University) outlined Turkey's historical transition from an Ottoman Empire to a

modern nation-state under the leadership of Kemal Atatürk. Wolfgang Seifert traced the disentanglement of politics from the cosmological order as understood in Japan from the perspective of intellectual history, while Prof. Kobayashi Masaya (University of Chiba) discussed the efforts of the political philosophers Nanbara Shigeru and Maruyama Masao after 1945 as an "intellectual revolution" aimed at a sustainable democracy (democracy as an incomplete democratization). Prof. Cho Jang Jip (University of Korea, Seoul) dealt with the fierce opposition of old elites against the progresses of democratic thought and democratic institutions achieved in South Korea following 1985. Prof. Jörg Plassen (Ruhr University, Bochum) examined the historical preconditions of Korean democracy, including the works of the founder of the Tonghak movement, Ch'oe Cheu (1824-1864). The event was closed by a panel discussion on the topic: "Building democracy by 'importing' from without, or by internal diffusion of democratic thought and behaviour? Different lessons from different countries." The speakers tended toward answers that favored the second possibility.

The welcoming message by the President of the Japan Foundation Ogura Kazuo was shown by video: "In addition to the institutional aspect, Asian political traditions have attached a great deal of importance to the moral integrity and ethical purity of individual politicians, as a means of guarding against potential abuses of power." Ogura regards this "as a useful complementary element to the institutional aspect of democracy." In view of the many cases of political corruption in democracies in today's world there is no doubt that there is an "accumulated need" of "progressive" Western countries in this regard. In particular the combination of speakers on "developed"

democratic countries and on countries that are in the transitional phase of implementing democratic forms of conflict resolution calls for a relativization of the western 'sense of mission'.

The conference was preceded by an international workshop on key texts written by the Japanese political scientist and historian of ideas Maruyama Masao (1914-1996), who unlike any other championed the establishment of modern democratic thought in post-war Japan. The workshop was held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his death this year. Under the heading "The Idea of Democracy in Japan – How to Translate the Political Thought of Maruyama Masao into Western Languages", four experts from France, Prof. Jacques Joly (University of Eichi, Ôsaka), Germany (Wolfgang Seifert and Dr. Matthias Zachmann, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich) and Belgium (Dr. Joel Joos, University of Okayama) discussed terminological issues in Japanese history of ideas and political theory from a translator's perspective. It was the first time that a workshop dealing with concepts of political theory in Japan was held in the Japanese language. The small circle of 16 participants allowed highly focused and in-depth study – something scarcely possible in the management atmosphere of academe in universities today, but made possible in the wonderful atmosphere of the JDZB. We would like to thank the staff of the Japan Foundation and the JDZB for the support given to us in every possible way.

Prof. Wolfgang Seifert
Institute for Japan Studies, Ruprecht Karls
University Heidelberg

Young Leaders Forum 2006 with Summer School for young leaders from Germany and Japan, August 27–September 6, 2006

Eight Japanese and eight Germans participated in the first "Young Leaders Forum" in summer 2006, which was co-organized by the Japanese-German Center Berlin and the Robert Bosch Foundation. For ten days the 25 to 35-year olds discussed the topic of integration in East Asia. The 16 participants were young leaders from the field of politics, science, economics and the media.

A workshop opened the event which was held in a conference palace near Berlin. Work groups and guest speakers covered the most important aspects of the topic. Following this, the participants who had traveled from Berlin, Stuttgart and Strassburg met with representatives from politics, academe, the economy and media. They were then given the opportunity to ask more in depth questions: which role does the European Union model play in East Asia? What does East Asia's economic growth mean for Europe?

The Summer School also included a cultural program that included museum tours and concerts. All participants were very enthusiastic at the end. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Robert Bosch Foundation for its generous support, without which the program would not have been possible.

Report of a Japanese participant

The major theme of this year's Summer School was to gain a comprehensive overview of the current situation and perspectives of regional integration in East Asia by carrying out a comparative study of the situation in Europe. Because I deal with Europe Studies in my work as an academic, I am predominantly interested with the question of which role Europe plays in Asia.

During the Summer School we examined this question from two perspectives. On the one hand we dealt with Asia's current interest in Europe. Throughout the program we had the opportunity to enter into discussions with representatives from the German companies Robert Bosch Ltd., Triumph Ltd., Berlinwasser International Inc. as well as BASF Inc. The strategies toward Asia and the preconceptions of relations with Asia vary accordingly to the various industries; some regard Asia solely as a market, others see it as a location for production or even a partner in the development of products. It was very exciting to learn more about the various interests and assessments of opportunities for future cooperation.

The second perspective was the question of whether Europe could serve as a model for the creation of a common region in Asia. Is Europe a model for Asia? Or does it merely offer a framework for reference? Should we therefore find our own way? The answers are dependent on various factors: on perspectives, timeframes and the object under investigation. And in fact these questions that reach beyond "comparative regional integration" are decisive for which direction Europe Studies will take in Japan. Since the late 19th century Europe has been a model for Japan's political, social,

cultural and scientific modernization. However, today in the course of globalization and regional integration and in view of the changing roles of Europe and Asia in the world, we must redefine relations with Europe. When we examine the role of Europe in Asia within this context, we must ask ourselves what does learning about and from Europe actually signify. The Summer School gave me an extraordinary opportunity to re-evaluate the preconception of Europe Studies in Japan as well as Japan-Europe or Asia-Europe relations.

Incidentally, every relationship begins with an encounter of people. The most valuable fruits of the eleven-day Summer School were the friendships made between participants from Germany and Japan. We really had a wonderful time and I hope that these close contacts hold for many years to come.

Kawakita Atsuko
Center for German and European Studies
The University of Tôkyô, Komaba

Report of a German participant

It must have been on the third or fourth evening when we realized that international understanding can actually be

great fun. Throughout the day we had discussed the pros and cons of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, we examined expert articles on the integration of East Asia, and made notes on all sorts of acronyms such as AFTA, ASEM, APEC and ASEAN+3. It was exciting and we learned much. But what happened after the dinner out did all that we previously thought we knew about Asia.

At first the Germans were reluctant to play a game that our Japanese friends suggested because the rules were a little bit fishy: everybody should choose a partner and then disappear into the night to meet a ghost that would be hiding in the bushes. In short: we survived. As recognition of our courage some of the Japanese participants then performed a dance in the early hours of the morning that included climbing on tables and chairs and moving their arms and legs like a robot in the palace's cellar party room.

From then on the Germans and the Japanese became better acquainted with each other around the clock. During the day we visited the Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie in Berlin – and practiced the Japanese robot dance in a club in Kreuzberg. We were invited to visit the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stutt-



gart, we toured a few engineering companies – and we even spent one evening learning Japanese maledictions. We met with members of the European parliament in Strassburg – and in the evening we visited a casino in Baden-Baden where we had to admit that the Japanese were much better at gambling as well. Just imagine: we arrive in the French city of Strassburg as a group of Germans and Japanese to meet to talk about Europe, Asia and the world with the Turkish-heritage, but German-Swabian MP Cem Özdemir. Suddenly we have some understanding of what globalization means.

The more we worked, discussed, ate, drank and laughed with each other the more we realized how similar Japanese and German people are: diligent, punctual, orderly, efficient – and always ready to have fun. Could the Robert Bosch Foundation wish for more suitable Summer School participants? And is there any better way to allow young Japanese and German the opportunity to get to know and understand each other better?

Marcus Krämer
"DIE ZEIT" (Weekly Newspaper)

5th International J-OPI-Symposium, August 24–26, 2006

The "J-OPI Europe Study Circle" (J-OPI-E Study Circle) held the 5th International J-OPI-Symposium with poster and plenary sessions at the JDZB from August 24–26. The focus was on "The search for points of contact from ACTFL-OPI and CEFR as American or European standards – universality and individuality of language." More than 110 regular and plenipotentiary OPI representatives from 12 European countries, South Korea, the USA and Japan gathered for the event. In addition, several members participated from the working group established by the Japan Foundation to revise the existing international standard examination for the Japanese language (Japanese Language Proficiency Test – JLPT). They presented an assessment of the commonalities between "JLPT (including the revised form that will take effect in 2009) and CEFR" as well as "Methodological possibilities of oral language proficiency" in the revised form as outlined above.

Following the international ACTFL-J-OPI conferences that were held in Edinburgh (2002), Seoul (2003), Princeton (2004) and Hakodate (2005), participants returned to Berlin for the 5th symposium. The JDZB was the host of the "ACTFL 4-Day Oral Proficiency Interview Tester Training Workshop" in November 2001 and is thus regarded as the "cradle of European J-OPI." Four similar workshops (including the course held directly after the current Berlin symposium) have been

held in Europe, and the hosting "J-OPI-E Study Circle" has already 57 European and non-European members. The "Study Circle" held their establishment meeting and first plenary session on the "Poster Session" one day before the actual symposium, where this author was confirmed as chair and a five-member executive committee was elected. Since there is still no legal framework for a European-wide body corporate of public law, the "J-OPI-E Study Circle" was established as a "free and charitable organization" under German law.

The Berlin symposium has become an academic meeting whereby constructive "community-oriented thoughts" amongst participants were aired to promote the "development of standards for the definition and standardization of language proficiency" in Japanese. We can see that the development of "OPI (USA) – CEFR (Europe) – JLPT (Japan)" as a result of practical research that is embodied in the highest levels of teaching Japanese today. The next international J-OPI-Symposium is expected to be held in Kyôto in 2007.

Dr. Yoriko Yamada-Bochynek
Institute of East Asian Studies, Free University Berlin

Abbreviations:

ACTFL: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

J-OPI: Japanese Oral Proficiency Interview

OPI: Oral Proficiency Interview



Japanese-German Youth Exchange

Suggestion and ideas for national youth work were received by the Japanese delegation of the "German-Japanese Study Program for Youth Work Specialists" (*right photo*) during their visit to Germany from October 8-21, 2006. In addition to specialists' lecture and discussions on youth work, the participants learned about numerous projects and work methods of institutions specializing in extracurricular youth work which were grouped under the heading "The acquisition of life competencies/social learning." Participants were then given the opportunity in a specialists' workshop to discuss questions and problems concerning youth work in both countries.

The participants who work on a volunteer basis of the "German-Japanese Youth Work Leaders Exchange" (*photo below*) visited Japan from September 13-27, 2006. In addition to information about volunteer youth work and the education system in Japan, their visit



included a host family-weekend, and a chance for them to continue discussions with peers in numerous meetings.

Both programs are being implemented under the stewardship of the Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin on the German side, and National Olympics Me-

morial Youth Center on behalf of the Japanese side. Funding is through the German Federal Child and Youth Plan, and the Japanese Ministry for Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology.



EU/G8 PRESIDENCY, GLOBAL QUESTIONS**Panel Discussion: 50 year Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome – The European Idea and the EU as Political Player**

C: German Embassy, Tôkyô; EU-Delegation to Japan, Tôkyô; Nikkei Shimbun, Tôkyô

Date: March 5, 2007

Symposium: European-Japanese Research Cooperation

Date: June 15, 2007

Conference: Civil Society and Political Decision-Making in the EU

C: The Japan Foundation, Tôkyô

Date: Fall 2007

VSJF Annual Meeting: Security in Japan – New Dimensions and Understandings

C: German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF)

Date: November 22–25, 2007

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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RESOURCES AND ENERGY SECURITY**Conference: Between Resource Competition and Cooperation Challenges – East Asia's Changing Market and Power Balance**

C: Fujitsu Research Institute, Tôkyô; Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tôkyô; European Commission; EU Council Presidency

Date: March 2, 2007

Conference: Central Asia (IV)

C: German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Tôkyô; Keizai Kôhō Center, Tôkyô

Date: April 2007, In Tôkyô

Conference: "3R" and Efficiency of Resources

C: Wuppertal Institute for Climate, the Environment, Energy; German Federal Ministry for Environmental Protection, Berlin; Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES, Tôkyô)

Date: Fall 2007

CITIES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS**Symposium: Urbanization and Mega Cities in Asia**

C: German Association for Asian Studies, Hamburg

Date: May 11–12, 2007

Symposium: Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in Japan and Europe

C: Institute for Agricultural und Life Science, University of Tôkyô; Bavarian Academy for Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation, Laufen

Date: Part I June 30 – July 4 2007 in Munich and July 5 in Berlin, Part II October 1–7, 2007, in Japan

Symposium: Shrinking Cities and Forgotten Territories

C: University of Dortmund; Institute for Behavioral Studies, Tôkyô

Date: 4th Quarter 2007

AGING SOCIETY**Symposia: Caring for the Elderly**

C: Sophia University, Tôkyô; The Japanese Association of Business Management for Long Term Care (BMLTC, Tôkyô)

Date: First half of the year 2007, in Tôkyô and Okayama

Symposium: In the Autumn of Life

Date: November 2007

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.

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STRUCTURAL REFORM AND INNOVATION**Symposium: Convergent Media and Networks – New Business Chances and Economic Opportunities**

C: Munich Group; Fraunhofer Institute for Open Systems of Communication (FOKUS, Berlin)

Date: April 18-20, 2007

Conference: Decentralization and Administrative Reform

C: University of Halle-Wittenberg; Waseda University, Tôkyô

Date: September 26–27, 2007, in Tôkyô

Symposium: Technology Roadmaps and the Transfer of Knowledge

C: German Federal Ministry for Education and Research; German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology; Federation of German Industry, Berlin

Date: to be decided

GERMAN AND JAPANESE COMPANIES IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**Symposium: EU-Strategies of Japanese Companies**

C: University of Munich

Date: First half of the year 2007, in Frankfurt/Main

Conference: Strategies of German and Japanese Companies toward China

C: Economic Promotions Bureau Düsseldorf; Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Düsseldorf

Date: Fall 2007, in Düsseldorf

DIALOG OF CULTURES**8th German-Japanese Grantee Seminar**

C: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, Bonn)

Date: July 2007

Symposium: 120 Years of Japan Research in Germany

C: Institute for East Asian Studies, Free University Berlin; Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences

Date: October 2007

Conference: Youth Culture in a Globalized World

C: The Japan Foundation, Tôkyô

Date: October 2007

Symposium: Dialog of Civilizations

C: German Embassy, Tôkyô; French Embassy, Tôkyô

Date: 4th Quarter 2007, in Tôkyô

EXHIBITIONS**Episography: Paintings and Computer Graphics by Shimomura Yutaka**

Opening: April 27, 2007, 7 p.m.

Duration: until June 8, 2007

Streets and People in Berlin and Tôkyô

- Photos by Uchimura Kôsuke

Opening: June 23, 2007, 7 p.m.

Duration: until September 28, 2007

DAHLEM MUSIC EVENINGS

(7.30 p.m.)

79.: New Years Concert

Date: January 12, 2007

SPECIAL PROJECT**16th Meeting of the German-Japanese Forum**

C: German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tôkyô; Japan Center for International Exchange, Tôkyô

Date: October 2–3, 2007, in Tôkyô

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**Young Leaders Forum – Summer-school**

C: Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart

Date: August/September 2007 in Tôkyô

Junior Experts Exchange Program with Workshop

C: German Federal Ministry for Education and Research; German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tôkyô

Date: June 2007

Study Program for Youth Work Specialists:

- German Delegation in Japan: May 19–June 2, 2007 (Preparation Seminar in the JDZB: April 20–22)
- Japanese Delegation in Germany: December 2–15, 2007

Exchange Program for Young Employees:

- German Delegation in Japan: June 13–27, 2007 (Preparation Seminar in the JDZB: May 4–6, 2007)
- Japanese Delegation in Germany: August 7.–20, 2007

Youth Group Leaders Exchange Program:

- German Delegation in Japan: August 8–22, 2007 (Preparation Seminar in the JDZB: July 6–7, 2007)
- Japanese Delegation in Germany: October 23–November 5, 2007

For more information please refer to:
www.jdzb.de --> Activities

NOTE

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

The JDZB will be closed
from December 23, 2006,
until January 7, 2007.

Seasons Greetings
and best wishes for a
prosperous New Year 2007!

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, winter break from December 22 until January 7, 2007)

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>

The JDZB will have a new internet homepage from the beginning of 2007 in which you will be able to download the *jdzb echo* or subscribe to have it sent to your e-mail address after registering your details on the corresponding pages of our website.

For those who cannot access our website, you may continue to receive the *jdzb echo* in its printed version.

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.

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.