

The Way to the G8 Summit in Toyako, Hokkaidô

YACHI Shôtarô, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

This year, Germany held the Presidency for the meeting of the seven leading industrialized nations and Russia (G8), which will be passed on to Japan in the next year. Germany is an important strategic partner for Japan; a partner that shares the goals and responsibilities of our country, and one with which we can together champion solutions for various problems within the world community. For this reason, ongoing dialogs are taking place on many occasions and at various levels. This year alone, with Germany heading the G8, talks were held on three occasions at the top government level between

Prime Minister Abe and Chancellor Merkel. Shortly after assuming his position, Prime Minister Fukuda also telephoned the German Chancellor. From this it can be seen that both countries are in close consultation as they hand over the G8 Presidency.

As has been widely reported, climate change was a major topic of the G8 summit held in the historical seaside resort of Heiligendamm in North-eastern Germany, and many important results were able to be achieved. The G8 heads of state and government all agreed to "seriously consider reducing global greenhouse gases by

at least half by the year 2050." Japan, which outlined its basic thoughts for the fight against climate change in its "Cool Earth 50" initiative, took on a leading role during the discussions held at the summit meeting.

According to all forecasts, environmental issues affected by climate change will become an important topic at the G8 Summit to be held in Toyako, Hokkaidô, on July 7-9 next year. The region of Toyako on the island of Hokkaidô is renowned for its exceptional natural beauty. The location of the summit meeting, on a small hill overlooking the banks

EU Commissioner Günter Verheugen appeals to Japanese companies to assist with regulatory reforms of the EU at the conference "Better Regulation" held in Brussels on November 19, 2007 (organizer: JDZB and EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation).



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of Lake Toyako, offers an impressive panoramic view of the picturesque countryside of Hokkaidô. The location offers the heads of state and government an appropriate backdrop against which to discuss the problems associated with climate change.

In December, the 13th annual Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or Conference of Parties (COP13) will be held on the Indonesian island of Bali. And in March, the fourth ministerial meeting of the agreement for a "Dialog about Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development," initiated at the G8 Summit meeting in Gleneagles in 2005, will be held in Chiba, Japan. Seeking to build on the results of these international conferences, Japan will seek to advance discussions within the United Nations for a successor to the Kyôto Protocol beyond the year 2013.

2008 marks the halfway point between the year 2000 and the year 2015, the year set by the United Nations at the Millennium Summit as a target date for the declaration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with regard to the health and education of people in developing countries. As a result, issues related to development may also become an important topic at the G8 summit meeting. In addition, in April of next year the 4th Tôkyô International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) will be held in Yokohama. With the motto "Towards a Vibrant Africa", this conference will send out a positive message for the development of Africa and growth on this continent.

The following topics are planned as focal areas, (1) accelerating growth, (2) guaranteeing human security, and (3) combating environmental problems and climate change. Japan will link the results of the TICAD IV with the Summit Meeting.

Finally, various issues concerning the global economy will be discussed at the summit as well as political topics such as non-proliferation, terrorism, and the current situation in individual regions. The proliferation of, among other things, weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to the international community, and one which the G8 must actively address. And even if this is subject to future developments, the Summit Meeting in Toyako on Hokkaidô takes place in Asia, i.e. on the continent clearly threatened with the development of nuclear weapons in North Korea. Since at the same time the nuclear program of Iran poses a serious problem, Japan is committed to sending out an important message at this summit meeting to support the non-proliferation treaty.



YACHI Shôtarô, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

EDITORIAL

Dear „jdzb echo“ readers,

On the occasion of Germany's handover of the G8 Presidency to Japan, the JDZB Secretary of State YACHI Shôtarô, member of the JDZB Foundation Council, offered to write the cover story for this edition. G8 topics on global responsibility, such as "Climate Change" and "Development Aid in Africa", all have also great significance for the JDZB.

"Global responsibility" is one of the fields of activities that the JDZB has defined as a focal area. The JDZB organizes and implements its conferences around these focal areas. Thus, the workshop "Germany-Japan-USA: Community Climate Partnerships" as mentioned in the interview with Dr. Pichl from the German Federal Environment Agency in this newsletter is part of the focal area "Raw material, energy, climate, environment."

The last page is dedicated to the German-Japanese student exchange program "TAKENOKO FUND". Thanks to the cooperation and financial support of Daimler AG and its subsidiary company Mitsubishi Fusô Truck & Bus Corporation, the program has been extended and will continue to run beyond the year 2007. I hope we receive many applications for the program.

Finally, I would like to thank you warmly for your continued interest in the JDZB. I kindly ask for your continued critical and constructive support of our activities. Best wishes to you all for a happy New Year.

SATÔ Hiromi
Deputy Secretary General

jdzb echo

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Workshop:**Germany - Japan - USA: Climate Partnership of Municipalities**

In a research project supported by the German Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt UBA, Dessau), regional climate protection activities in Germany, Japan and the US are under analysis and the foundations established for the identification of successful and efficient measures to reduce green house gas emissions at the municipal level. In March 2008 a workshop will be held in Japan with the cooperation of the UBA, the Climate Alliance (European cities), the University of Nagoya and the JDZB; the main goal of the workshop will be determining recommendations for municipal (or regional and national) administrative bodies to strengthen regional and local climate protection. Dr Peter Pichl, Officer for Community Climate Alliance from the UBA gave the following interview:



More than 1400 European cities and municipalities have agreed to be part of the "Climate Alliance." What is the goal of this association?

The starting point was the "World Mayors Summit" in 1995, whereby the goal was formulated to reduce CO₂ emissions by 50% at the municipal level. These goals have in the meantime been modified and the Climate Alliance supports them, for example, not only through research, public relations activities and advisory services as well as exchanges, but also through aid with promotional funding or with the introduction of CO₂ monitoring. Approximately 4000 German cities make up the core of the Climate Alliance.

Why do municipal or local governments play such a central role in climate protection?

Cities are the focal point of energy consumption, where the areas of recreational activities, living and working are all located in close proximity to each other. As a rule it is difficult for individual consumers, but also for small businesses and service providers to become enthusiastic about the goals of climate protection - unless you deal with them at the municipal or local government level where you can best motivate citizens, companies and institutions.

Which spheres of activities are affected in the municipalities, which focal points should we determine?

The most important sphere of activities of the municipalities is their own properties which must be brought up to high levels of energy efficiency. Renovating old buildings, energy generation through combined heat and power generation, efficient energy distribution and savings are the key terms - the municipalities must lead by setting a good example! Secondly, the role of municipalities as a moderator for climate protection investment comes to the fore. It is no longer primarily concerned with money, but rather winning over industrial partners that can implement climate protection goals through their own

economic measures. An example here is the biomass heating power plant located in Pfaffenhofen: with the help of four investors, this power station provides energy not only to approximately 200 industrial and commercial consumers, but also hospitals and municipal institutions with warmth and cooling and has led to a 30% decrease in CO₂ emissions in the region.

That's great news for municipal measures, but what about individual citizens, what can renters and house owners do?

In Germany we have a special focus on renovating old buildings because 60% of heating is consumed in old buildings. It's about improving insulation in windows, walls, basements and roofs to reduce the demand for energy and to have a more efficient utilization of renewable energy. It is very important for house owners to use bivalent systems, i.e., the combination of renewable energy - e.g., solar energy - and more conventional energy supplies, but in the first instance it is about a more efficient conversion of energy. Transport also remains an important topic and we strongly publicize preventing traffic! Go for that stroll to the shops instead of taking the car... It's about changing individual behavior: how can I satisfy my requirements and yet leave a smaller carbon footprint?

One example from Japan: air conditioning is an enormous problem - every house, and sometimes each room has its own air conditioning system; this is very strongly CO₂-afflicted because it uses up a lot of energy and has an incredible effect on the temperature of inner city areas. This is where long distance or community cooling could help, and usable functioning systems already exist. It's not easy, but we must start to think about a step-by-step conversion of individual cooling devices based on power to a more environmentally friendly model, e.g., cooling through the utilization of lost heat und absorption cooling machine in a supply system.

The problem is even greater in the US: houses there have mostly thin walls and roofs, which greatly increase the levels of cooling or heating required. Insulation is very important here, but also the adoption of another philosophy toward building and construction that would lead to lower CO₂ emissions. It seems that the awareness that cars should use less gas is slowly sinking in when we talk about transport issues.

The project is all about functioning city partnerships to promote the ideas of local climate protection. Are there new impulses in cooperation?

As a rule, German-Japanese sister city partnerships do not engage in ongoing dialog, rather it is intermittent. When we were preparing the project we realized that German municipal governments would like to enliven their partnerships with the Japanese cities, and we thought that joint activities in climate protection would be especially suitable. Cities such as Munich and Heidelberg want to demonstrate their past experiences and the conclusions they have drawn. There are already positive reactions, but the whole thing is an ongoing process.

Which results can we expect from the workshop in March and from the project overall?

The main goal is to promote the research project and improve not only the conditions for local climate protection in the three cooperating countries but also globally. It's about international cooperation; we are always looking for combatants from the cities around the world. The project has a long-term and strategic concept for this purpose. I am of the firm belief that the national goal for the reduction of CO₂ emissions in all countries cannot be achieved without the involvement of measures initiated at the municipal or local level.

*Dr. Pichl, thank you for your time!
(Interview by Michael Niemann)*



At the beginning of the 21st century, Japan and Germany were confronted with similar problems. Demographic change, changing value systems and socio-political resistance toward a more relaxed migration policy have led both countries to a situation of a stagnant and aging population. Parallel to this we can observe developments commonly grouped under the catchword 'globalization' that have led to a further concentration of the population to a few densely populated metropolises. This is having an adverse effect on those regions located away from the metropolises which are losing their young and active population because these areas can not offer attractive employment opportunities, nor can they continue to finance the technical and social infrastructure, at least under the conditions offered by the market economy and without considerable financial support. These people who live and work outside of the densely populated areas/conurbations feel let down.

This was the background of a three-day symposium held in English and entitled **"The Future of the Periphery?"** conceptually organized by Prof. Dr. Klaus R. Kunzmann on September 18-21. The conference was dedicated to examining which strategies are necessary in order to stabilize individual peripheries so that the people living and working there choose to remain and don't feel like they have been forgotten.

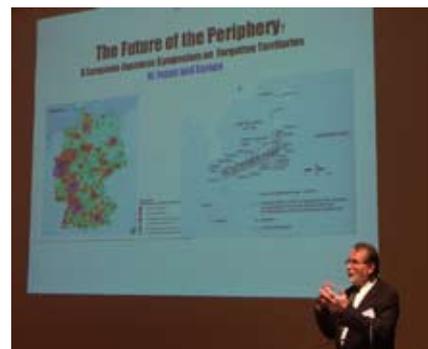
All the German and Japanese speakers at the symposium, including those from Scotland and Scandinavia, clearly revealed that the people living in these areas have not been forgotten. The papers from Japan confirmed unanimously, even if from different perspectives, that the gap between large cities and rural areas has become even wider over the past few decades, despite comprehensive national efforts to develop industry and tourism in peripheral and rural regions. This has become a carefully watched political

Against the background of demographic change, two German-Japanese specialists' conferences were held in September 2007. The conferences dealt with the problems of peripheries and of decentralization in comparison. Prof. Klaus R. Kunzmann (retired professor of the University of Dortmund) and Prof. Gesine Foljanty-Jost (University of Halle-Wittenberg) summarized the results.

topic, domestically as well. The problems related to the growing undersupply of social infrastructure cannot be overcome simply with new technologies; moreover Japan's traditionally inward-looking tourism policies can give little or only compensatory impulses. Future regional strategies for peripheral regions must seek to utilize regional potential in particular, i.e., the endogenous territorial capital of the countryside, its people and what they have to offer, because investors from the metropolises and from overseas are not prepared to invest in these regions. The papers also clearly pointed out that a new organizational and finance policy regulatory framework must be created.

These conditions for a new framework were the focus of a conference planned by Prof. Gesine Foljanty-Jost und Prof. Dr. Agata Kôichiro and co-organized by the JDZB, the University of Halle-Wittenberg and Waseda-University on the topic of **"Decentralization in Comparison"** in Tôkyô on September 28.

The reform of municipal politics has been on the political agenda of Japan and Germany for decades. In both countries it has led to wide-reaching changes in relations between the state and local municipalities or between municipalities and citizens. The central question of the conference in Tôkyô was how to maintain the performance of municipal governments, despite demographic change and chronic financial shortages and overcome the legitimization-crisis at the municipal level. The results of the discussions led by the participants from Germany and Japan revealed that reforms in both countries have very different systemic prerequisites. In Germany the modernization of local politics is taking place against a long tradition of federalism. The reforms are predominantly directed at reducing functional weaknesses of the system, without leading to a fundamental paradigm shift.



In contrast, in Japan decentralization reforms are taking place against a background of traditionally strong central government domination. Decentralization reforms are aimed predominantly at a fundamentally new structure of the relations between central government and local authorities, in the sense of a functional, horizontal division of duties. Thus, reforms imply a basic paradigm shift of politics in Japan. At the same time the fundamental approaches toward policy reforms are overwhelmingly identical in both countries. In Germany as in Japan the main focus is in on a modernization of municipal administrative procedures with the goal of increasing the efficiency of public administration through the introduction of new taxation processes. Essential elements here include quality control, the privatization of public services, or the new definition of citizens as clients of public services.

With all the comparisons of strategies of municipal political modernization, the focus of discussions in both countries was still quite apparent. Thus the focus of debates in Germany are currently based on the issues of improving economic performance of municipalities and the effects of new taxation mechanisms with regard to the efficiency of municipal policies, whereby the involvement of citizens in the planning and decision-making processes as practiced at the municipal level as well as at the academic level must be re-evaluated. In Japan in contrast however, decentralization reforms – irrespective of discussions about new taxation mechanisms at the municipal level – are linked to the desire for stronger democratization from the „bottom up.“ The expectation is that new direct forms of participation in democratic processes will end the increasing political distance of local populations and increase the acceptance of politics in more citizen-involved municipal policies.

The JDZB can only cover a small part of the German-Japanese exchange network with its short-term programs; other institutions such as the JSPS complement these program offerings.

“Academic Bridge between Japan and Germany”

Prof. Dr. Tanaka Yasuo, JSPS Liaison Office Bonn

(<http://www.jsps.go.jp>)

In this article, I shall briefly introduce the missions of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (hereafter abbreviated JSPS) and its Liaison Office in Bonn. I will also mention my personal view on the academic cooperation between Japan and Germany.

JSPS was originally established in 1932 as a foundation for supporting academic research. After World War II, in 1967, it was revived as a quasi-government organization, which in 2003 was re-organized into an independent administrative institution. JSPS is a funding agency for academic activities and consistently maintains the ‘bottom-up’ tradition. The missions of JSPS consist of three “pillars.” The largest is funding to distribute grants-in-aid to researchers across the entire academic spectrum, based on peer reviews. In addition, JSPS cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) through the evaluation and selection of MEXT programs such as the Center-of-Excellence Initiative. The two other pillars are fostering young researchers and promoting international academic cooperation. JSPS recognizes the high importance of international cooperation and supports cooperation in all academic fields. Here, I shall write in particular Japan-Germany cooperation through JSPS programs.

At present there are ten JSPS liaison offices (or centers) around the world. The first center, located in Europe, was established in Bonn in 1992. (Currently there are three others in London, Stockholm and Strasbourg.) Our Bonn Office celebrated its 15th anniversary this year. Here in Germany, we have cooperation agreements with DFG, DAAD, Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Foundation and the Max Planck Society. We maintain close partnerships with these agencies and strive to promote cooperation between the two countries.

The key element of international cooperation is the exchange of scientists. The mode of exchange has changed over time. The time when an academic visited another simply for learning is long gone. Today, exchanges of scientists are mostly for conducting joint research. Furthermore, large scale exchange activities take place that no longer concentrate on the individual scientist level; exchanges take place between groups and even between research “cores” (such as university faculties or

research institutes). JSPS offers various support programs that are dependent respectively on the scale of cooperation. (Please visit the JSPS Website provided at the end.)

There are no national borders in scientific research, because it is an intellectual activity aimed at creating knowledge and new understandings which are the common property of the whole world. This is widely recognized today as the trend of globalization spreads. In such circumstances, it is important to internationalize young researchers from the early stage of their education. Based on my own experience, this is particularly true for Japan because of its geographic isolation from Europe and America. Fortunately, such programs are available. DFG and JSPS jointly sponsor the IRTG (International Research Training Group) program and in addition JSPS operates ITP (International Training Program), through which Japanese and German universities settle an agreement and jointly foster their graduate students. For example, the IRTG program is currently being implemented between the universities of Muenster and Nagoya as well as Halle/Wittenberg and Tokyo. These efforts are highly valuable, and I strongly hope for their success and the further expansion of the program.

Looking back through history, Japan learned much from Germany before World War II. Even after the War many Japanese scholars studied in Germany with the support of DAAD and AvH. Today, both countries are equally advanced at the world’s top levels in science, and the exchange of scientists is bilateral. The number of German scholars who visit Japan for research with the aid of JSPS Fellowship has exceeded far beyond 1000. It is gratifying to observe this steady increase in numbers. These include scientists who are involved in joint research projects, but also doctoral students obtaining JSPS short-term fellowships. It is conceivable that before embarking on their journey they worry about cultural differences and the language barrier. However, most of them come back with great satisfaction and as



life-long friends of Japan. And vice versa, I have always met with understanding throughout my stay in Germany. I even feel as if Japanese and German people share similar senses of emotion.

To our exceptional pleasure, the former JSPS fellows voluntarily founded an alumni association (Deutsche Gesellschaft der JSPS Stipendiaten e.V.) in 1995. This was the first JSPS Club in the world, and was a great award to JSPS. At present the Club has more than 200 registered members, and is steadily growing. In addition, many more former JSPS fellows (though not registered members) join us in annual events which our Bonn Office and the Club jointly organize. The Club is actively engaged in its own program. For instance the Club participated in “The German Year in Japan,” holding a symposium in Tokyo. The Club is our strong partner from whom we benefit a great deal by its strong support for our activities.

I notice considerable similarities between the academic societies of both countries. For example, the differences between levels of individual universities had not been an official topic of interest. However, the situation changed dramatically recently with the introduction of open competition. Fostering the development of strong centers of education and research is considered a top priority. There is no doubt that competition is the driving force for advancement and that competitive funding support is useful in lifting the scientific level. However, excessive competition contains risks. It would be important to encourage not only competition but also more international cooperation. As I mentioned, German and Japanese scientists can build intimate partnerships. I strongly wish for further development of academic cooperation between the two countries, and we will strive for it. Last but not least, I sincerely acknowledge the endeavors of the JDZB in strengthening the Japan-Germany relationship, and I look forward to cooperating with the JDZB on our common goals.



“Rural seasons” exhibition of colorful wall screens by Furukawa Michiyasu.

Exhibition runs until January 11, 2008, opening hours Monday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Friday 10 am to 3.30 pm.



The 16th Meeting of the German-Japanese Forum was held on October 2 and 3, 2007, in Tôkyô. Similar to the previous years, a joint statement of the advisory board, for which the JDZB acts as its German Secretariat, was sent to the heads of state. For further details, please refer to:

<http://www.jcie.or.jp/thinknet/forums/german-japan/16.html>



Conference: “Security and Insecurity: New Challenges for Japan at the Beginning of the 21st Century” was held at the JDZB from November 23 to 25. The 20th annual conference of the “Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung” (Association for Social Science Research on Japan) took up topical discussions on security in Japan, and a panel of more than 100 participants discussed Japanese solutions to new and other dimensions of the term as well as associated challenges.



Secretary of State Michael Müller (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety) opened the conference “Resource Efficiency: Japan and Germany at the Forefront” held at the JDZB on Nov. 6, 2007.



Panel discussion of the workshop “Cool Japan” held on October 31, 2007, at the JDZB. In front of a predominantly young audience, discussions centered on disseminating Japanese everyday and popular culture in the age of globalization.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Symposium: Perspectives for the Development of Africa

C: Japanese Delegation with the EU, Brussels; European Commission, Brussels; European Policy Council, Brussels

Date: End of February 2008 in Brussels

Conference: Global Responsibility in Development Cooperation – Common Interests and Initiatives of Japan and Germany

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin / Bonn

Date: May 2008

Conference: Managing the Medusa: Global Governance Issues – Japan, US, UK, Germany: Approaches in Comparison

C: Free University Berlin; Tôkyô University

Date: December 11-12, 2008

RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT

Workshop: Germany – Japan – USA: Climate Partnership of Municipalities

C: Federal Environment Agency, Dessau; Climate Alliance (European cities), Frankfurt; Nagoya University

Date: mid-March 2008, in Nagoya

Conference: Energy

C: Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin / Bonn; Fujitsu Research Institute, Tôkyô

Date: Second Quarter of 2008, in Tôkyô

DEMOGRAPHICS

Workshop: Bilateral Exchanges on the Further Development of Care Insurance

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

Date: June 2008 in Tôkyô

Symposium: Family Policies

C: Tsukuba University; Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich

Date: November 13-15, 2008 in Tôkyô and Tsukuba

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Workshop: Path Dependency and Path Plasticity: Innovation Processes in the Software Sector

C: Frankfurt University; Marburg University

Date: January 28, 2008

Symposium: Technology Roadmaps and Transfer of Knowledge

C: Federation of German Industries (BDI), Berlin

Date: April 22, 2008 in Hannover

Workshop: Creating Sustainability in the Field of Social Sciences in Japan and Germany

C: Association of German School Geographers, Berlin; Japanese Society for Geographical Sciences, Hiroshima;

Hiroshima University of Economics

Date: August 20-22, 2008

STATE, ENTERPRISES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Conference: Asia – Partner or Competitor? Strategies for Asia of Japanese and German Companies

C: Economic Promotions Bureau Düsseldorf; Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Düsseldorf

Date: March 4, 2008 in Düsseldorf

Conference: Corporate Social Responsibility

C: Free University Berlin; econsense, Berlin; Keizai Dôyukai, Tôkyô

Date: May or June 2008

Workshop: Eco-Design

C: International Design Center Berlin; International Design Center Nagoya; German Chamber for Industry and Commerce in Japan, Tôkyô

Date: Autumn 2008 in Tôkyô and Nagoya

Symposium: Civil Society in Europe and Asia – Perspectives of Transnational Communication

C: Halle-Wittenberg University

Date: to be determined

DIALOG OF CULTURES

Symposium: Perspectives of Developments of Scientific Libraries in Germany and Japan.

Workshop: Research of Information on Japan for Japan-related Libraries in Europe

C: Japanese Cultural Institute, Cologne

Date: February 28-29, 2008

Ninth German-Japanese Grantee Seminar

C: German Academic Exchange Service, Bonn

Date: July 2008

Conference: Mobility of Collections – Tasks for National Museums

C: National Arts Collection Dresden

Date: Autumn 2008

Symposium: Popular Culture from Japan

C: Japan Foundation, Tôkyô

Date: Second half of October 2008

Conference: German Soft Power in East Asia: Past and Future

C: Ôsaka University

Date: November 21-22, 2008 in Kyôto or Ôsaka

SPECIAL PROJECT

17th Meeting of the German-Japanese Forum

Date: November 25-26, 2008

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Junior Experts Exchange Program

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

Date: March 2008 in Japan, June 2008 in Germany

Young Leaders Forum 2008

C: Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart

Date: July / August 2008

For following programs please refer to

<http://www.jdzb.de> --> Exchange Programs:

- Youth Group Leaders Exchange Program
- Study Program for Youth Work Specialists
- Exchange Program for Young Employees
- Takenoko Fund (German-Japanese High School Student Exchange, see also page 8)

CONCERTS/EXHIBITIONS

DAHLEM MUSIC EVENINGS

(start 7.30 p.m.)

January 18: Sakura Vocal Quartett

February 22: Ishizaka Danjuro

(Duett with Cello and Piano)

EXHIBITIONS

German-Japanese Dialog "Somewhere between Walking and Dreaming" Photographs by Satô Akiko and Mireille Schellhorn

Opening: January 31, 2008, 7 p.m.

Duration: until mid-March 2008

C: = in cooperation with

Venue: JDZB, if not stated otherwise.

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

Information on all JDZB language courses and other Japanese language courses in the brochure „Nihongo – Learning Japanese in Berlin“, which is published every September by the JDZB.

The JDZB established the "TAKENOKO FUND for German-Japanese Student Exchange" in order to promote encounters between German and Japanese youth. "Takenoko" means 'young bamboo shoots' in Japanese, which quickly build dense and resilient networks. The goal of the TAKENOKO FUND is to facilitate and develop the promotion and expansion of the exchange of students from Germany and Japan by supporting independently initiated German-Japanese student exchange projects.

Initiator and sponsors of the TAKENOKO FUND are Daimler AG and its subsidiary company Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corporation who help to cover the high cost of flight tickets incurred due to the great distance between the two countries. In the last three



years ten school groups from Japan with a total of 120 students and 16 school groups from Germany with a total of 204 students were given the opportunity through the TAKENOKO FUND to experience a lively exchange visit and a chance to become better acquainted with the partner country.

Above photo: Theater project of Berlin schools in November 2005 in front of the Imperial Palace in Tôkyô.

Left photo: Middle and Senior School students from Shôkei Gakuin (Sendai) in March 2007 at Mercedes Benz World in Berlin.



TAKENOKO FUND ANNOUNCEMENT 2008

Target Groups

- Students groups and student projects from high schools in Germany and Japan with up to 15 participants (including a supervisor).
- Student groups or student projects may apply who:
 - - are in the process of creating a new German-Japanese exchange partnership (initial exchange);
 - - are planning an exchange project with a thematic focus (e.g., theater performance, music etc.);
 - - already have an exchange partnership and want to make a first visit, or are planning an exchange program with new contextual aspects.

Terms and Conditions

- A further requirement is that contacts in the other country are established independently and that planning and implementation of the exchange with partner organizations are carried out on their own responsibility.

Application

- Various details must be submitted at the time of application submission (these include: the name of the German or Japanese project partner, the goal, contents and dates of the exchange program with a provisional program itinerary, a detailed cost schedule that includes a list of other possible or secured funding, and details of own financial contribution).
- Application forms are available from the JDZB which can then be submitted by e-mail or post.

Closing Date for Applications

- Applications for the year 2008 may be submitted immediately or at least four months before the beginning of the project to the Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin. Applicants will be advised in writing whether they have been successful for the program. We cannot give any information by telephone or e-mail.

For application forms and further information:

- JDZB (<http://www.jdzb.de>), German-Japanese Youth Exchange Department
- Ms MAKINO Hitomi (Tel: 030 839 07 193, Fax: 030 839 07 220, E-Mail: hmakino@jdzb.de)
- and Ms. SAKAEDANI Yasuko (E-Mail: ysakaedani@jdzb.de)

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TAKENOKO-FONDS