

State-Building and Human Security

Dr. OGATA Sadako, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Since the end of World War II, Germany and Japan have continually pursued reconstruction based on similar principles: to rebuild our countries on the principles of democracy and economic progress, social and international solidarity, and with a determination to contribute to developing countries. Both countries have emphasized economic and social development rather than military assistance, especially in the field of development assistance.

In order to protect the people from various threats and dangers, it is important to focus on the people within states as well as those "beyond", i.e., as both beneficiaries and contributors. Legitimacy, juridical system, and economic stability are fundamental pillars of the state that provide physical security, basic social services (such as health, education etc.)

and employment to the people. In this sense, state-building is one of the critically important pillars that enhance human security; however state-building cannot be achieved without strengthening human security.

By providing development assistance that covers basic services, such as health, education, clean water etc, contributions to enhance the capacity of the people and its social and economic institutions are very important. Through financial assistance and technical cooperation, development assistance increases local ownership, and economic and political stability, which are vital elements for state-building.

Globally speaking, current common agenda for Germany and Japan include in the first instance climate change and

secondly addressing the conflict and insecurity that still remains prevalent around the world today. Our common tasks are development assistance, particularly in the field of socio-economic development, and peace building.

Globally significant changes are taking place, of particular note is the role of the G20 to represent rapidly growing countries such as China, Brazil and India among others (and there are many more to come). We strongly expect that new countries will play ever increasingly important roles in shaping international policy and economic agendas.

This conference focused on 'state building' in Asia – particularly the task of assessing the most suitable development assistance within this process. However, we should recognize from the outset that



This year's German-Japanese Forum was held on November 5-6, 2009, in Tôkyô. Members of the Advisory Committee for both governments met under the joint chair of MOGI Yûzaburo (Chair and CEO, Kikkoman Corp.) and Prof. Berhard Scheuble (third and fourth from right) for the 18th time.

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one model will not fit all countries. It is very important that we recognize that history, geography, ethnic composition and other factors make every state uniquely individual and different. All efforts must be targeted toward understanding the special characteristics of each state and each people. This is the first lesson that we should learn when dealing with development assistance. We must be able to respond to questions such as: what lessons can we learn from our experiences in Asia? How can development assistance contribute to state-building? And what is the ultimate role of the state?

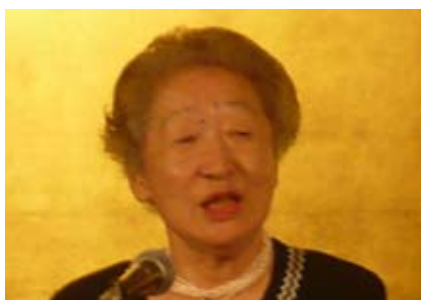
This October I visited Iraq, which is reaching another critical point in its effort to rebuild itself with the pending or expected withdrawal of a large number of American troops. In talks with leaders in Baghdad and Erbil and with diplomatic corps including the American Ambassador, Japanese Ambassador, and others, it became clear to me how difficult it is to rebuild a state when it has been totally destroyed. Shifting from a period of military actions against terrorism and confrontation, Iraq may now be entering the stage of diplomacy-led political action and economic and social development-led recovery – and development itself. In this particular situation, JICA has been contributing to the process by providing heavy infrastructure assistance such as energy, electricity, water supply, and so on. However, through our discussions there we discovered that they would now really like to have a much more people-focused kind of development, especially in agriculture. Iraq was basically a country led by agriculture, and it is agriculture and rural development that the leaders seem to want. We will also have to review the agricultural structure there, the practices, what the “Oil for Food” did in the past – these are all factors we will need to examine as we assist with development in this very important country.

Afghanistan is a country I visited frequently as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with some six million refugees out of the country and facing internally very critical phases of rebuilding after years of poverty, foreign

intervention, conflict and insurgency. In Afghanistan, JICA has a sizable program of socio-economic development ranging from health, education and employment programs. And there has been considerable advancement at the socioeconomic level – the lives of the people. Although there are difficulties with the Taliban and other various factors that prevent a straightforward development of the country, there is a lot of international support – perhaps we could even say intervention – that complicates the process. But let us hope that the recent election will be another starting point for the country to grow. Next year, Japan and Afghanistan will be observing 80 years of diplomatic relations. It is an old country that Japan has had very long and close relations with. The 80th anniversary next year will mark not only a different phase in Japan and Afghan relations but also in Afghan reconstruction.

Both Germany and Japan have followed a similar two-pronged approach to state-building: Through social and economic development assistance focused on capacity-building of the people and through institution-building based on the capacity of the people. As people become increasingly able to manage their own affairs, they then turn the state into one with solid grounds of responsible governance. These are very important lessons that we can learn from the various involvements of Germany and Japan.

(This contribution is based on the Keynote Speech by Dr. OGATA at the international Symposium “Challenges of State-building in Asia – Global Responsibility in Development Cooperation of Japan and Germany,” held on November 7, 2009, in Tôkyô.)



Dear “jdzb echo” readers!

The year of 2009, shaped by the global financial and economic crises, is coming to an end. The JDZB took up this important topic but ensured that other strategic challenges were not forgotten. For example, global responsibility in development cooperation became a focal point of two conferences in 2009, and climate protection. We will continue to maintain this mix of long-term development and topical issues in the future as well.

This autumn two new governments assumed office in Japan and Germany. We sincerely hope this will bring new impulses to our bilateral relations and we will do all that we can to support them.

2010 will be a special year for the JDZB since on January 15 we will celebrate our 25th anniversary. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success over the years and hope that we may continue to count on your support in the future.

On behalf of all the staff at the JDZB I would like to wish you happy holidays and a prosperous 2010.

Dr. Friederike Bosse
Secretary General of the JDZB

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To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the photographer **HASHIGUCHI George** gave a lecture with photographs on “Berlin in Transition - From the Perspective of a Japanese Photographer,” which was held on November 26, 2009, at the JDZB. Below are some of the photographer’s reflections.

Berlin first came to my consciousness in 1981 when I read the book “Christiane F – Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo” written by a girl from Berlin. As I read the book I had the feeling that there were youth like Christiane in my society as well. Since the 1980s there was a growing feeling in Japanese society that excluded everything that was heterogeneous. Thus the worlds of youth in Japan, who were actually quite well off but still had the feeling they were missing out on something, and of Christiane F were united within me. Fortunately at the time I was asked by a Japanese television broadcaster to be an adviser for a joint television production by networks from Japan, the US, the UK and the Federal Republic of Germany. During the production of this program I had the opportunity to wander through the streets of London, Liverpool, Nuremberg, Berlin and New York. In the streets of London and New York you could see the distortions of the class system and the poverty that had been passed down to the next generation, which was easy to photograph. However, in Berlin it was different. West Berlin was surrounded by the Wall, all through the city there were vacant building lots, and the groups of youth in the city tried to make themselves invisible. Desperately they tried to establish their own life reality. As I got to know these youths I felt intuitively that the future of today’s society was in the hands of this city. But it was difficult to capture on film. On the one hand because I was young myself, but on the other because I had not yet found a way to capture their souls. So I thought – if I couldn’t capture it – perhaps it would be worthwhile thinking about what it would mean to live in this city. Since then, Berlin has become the foundation of my artistic life.

A few of my works deal with Berlin directly, but by and large the things I thought about in Berlin were then realised in Japan. Since then I have exhibited works using many different perspectives. My works always have a different topic and a different style, yet they all share a common essence which is the core of every piece. If I were to describe them I would say that they deal with an “ongoing curiosity.”

Since I couldn’t speak German I did not always take in what was happening around me. With Berlin I constantly evolved and was able to avoid the psychological breakdown and continue to work even today. Other cities want growth and order, but Berlin is different - which is why this city has given me so many inspirations.

When I feel as if the “freedom” that surrounds Kreuzberg starts to suffocate me I escape to the Zoo. I ask myself why are animal parks so important to people. And then I started visiting animal parks in many cities of the northern hemisphere which led me to create my work “Zoo” in 1989.

When I returned to Japan after living in Berlin, a city that will not be subjugated to market fundamentalism, I experienced first hand how our societies were moving in a destructive direction. That was in 1986. I felt like human greed had taken over society without taking into account the wishes and feelings of the people – there was a fear that faces and people’s lives would become invisible. A society was being created in which people no longer played an important role. I began to take portraits of my fellow citizens, and to document their expressions and environment. This was the beginning of the series “individual.” This series still keeps me busy today. I was able to gain this perspective only through understanding and knowing more about Berlin - a city far removed from market fundamentalism. As people became engulfed in feelings of joy and elation for a



short period after the fall of the Berlin Wall and until the unification of East and West Germany, I had a new encounter with Berlin. This was with the two city boroughs of Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg before they were renovated; two boroughs that survived the last war and the GDR. For people who live in Berlin these boroughs have been shaped by negative history and this is perhaps the reason why they don’t like them. But for me, as a Japanese, they made the flair of Berlin of 100 years ago more understandable over space and time. For the first time since coming to Berlin I could feel a real sense of physical and emotional joy; I could feel my heart opening. As I was taking photographs of these boroughs I felt for the very first time the desire to show my work to the people of this city.

The main themes HASHIGUCHI (born in 1949 in Kagoshima, Japan) deals with are people in modern society and community engagement. Since 2000 HASHIGUCHI is a regular visitor to Vietnam, India and Germany where he teaches, among other things, photography to youth within the framework of a social art project.

Picture below: From the series „No place for us to live”, 1981 © HASHIGUCHI George



On October 2-3, 2009, the tenth meeting of grant recipients of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) was held at the JDZB. To celebrate this occasion, Aline Henninger (an intern working for the Grantee Seminar 2009) and Jörg Reinowski (Project Manager of the JDZB) wrote the following.

What is the objective of grantee seminars? The seminars seek to provide a networking opportunity for Japanese, German and Korean DAAD grant recipients. The grantees use the opportunity to take their first academic steps and present a paper. However, the challenge is for grantees to present a paper to an interested lay audience and not experts from their field.

At the beginning of 1997 we had a novel idea: why don't we bring together those Japanese DAAD grantees currently in Germany with German grantees who have just returned from Japan. And since then the seminars have developed further: for three years we expanded to include the "Koreans" (German grantees in Korea and Korean grantees in Germany) in the meetings.

The attraction of the grantee seminars is to take multidisciplinary seriously. The seminars are not thematically isolated, and no topics or disciplines are excluded. What counts is quality, relevance and the originality of the presentations. Thus topics range from Japanese patent management (Ulrike Fröhlich 1997) to current, time-bound topics such as a comparison of the US subprime financial crisis with the Japanese real estate bubble of the 1990s (Daniel Willam 2008), but also more marginal topics such as "Do plants need hearts to transport water?" (Kim Yangmin 2007). One of the most impressive presentations given for a lay audience was by Christina Kraus from the

field of natural sciences entitled "We can count on quantum" (2006), wherein she expounded the applications of quantum mechanics in the field of information processing. The majority of papers, however, come from the fields of literary sciences, history, politics, philosophy and history. It is worth noting here that grantees from Japan are strongly represented in this area.

Due to the diversity of topics presented, particular emphasis is placed on developing a culture of discussions that reach beyond the narrow limitations of specialist fields. Grantees are given the opportunity to publish their presentations as a contribution to a scientific conference volume. Published conference volumes can be ordered by contacting the press and relations office of the JDZB, and more recent volumes can be downloaded via the "Publications" page of the JDZB website.

The DAAD has found a partner in the JDZB that is open to change and innovation. The DAAD took up the idea to include cultural projects: 2006 saw the video installation "Bright Future Ahead" by Jan Verbeek, and in 2007 the installation "Pappenheim" by Jan Klopfleisch, who had made a mobile tea house out of paper and erected it in unusual places throughout Japan and documented the reactions of the Japanese public. At the grantee seminar of 2007 this mobile tea house stood in the foyer of the JDZB and grantees could learn more about this

project's documentation as well as about Japanese tea. Cultural projects can also be found in conference volumes: in 2007 we included with the publication a DVD of the documentary film about the daily school life of a Korean girl called "DIENSTAG und ein bisschen Mittwoch" (Tuesday and a bit of Wednesday) by Susanne Mi-Son Quester. It is important for the JDZB that seminars are open to the public, in the form of panel discussions on topical issues (e.g., "intensifying academic exchange – experiences and opportunities"), which allow specialists to learn from the experiences of grantees and vice versa.

Ten years of grantee seminars was also an opportunity for a small celebration that included addresses given by representatives of the Embassy of Japan to Germany, the DAAD and the JDZB, with musical entertainment provided by the grantees YAMAZAKI Haruna (singing) und OGUCHI Mana (piano). We would like to give special thanks to both artists for taking on the engagement at such short notice. We would also like to thank the Embassy of Japan and Hotel Ku'Damm 101 for the financial support they provided to the seminar in its anniversary year.

Ten years of cooperation is also a long time for the JDZB; over this period we have seen the conception and objectives of the seminar developed further in cooperation with the DAAD and we will continue to do so in the future. The organizers hope that the seminars bring together grantees and (academic) projects and develop independently, if and when possible, together with the JDZB.



For some years now the Junior Experts Exchange Program has become a successful component of the JDZB Exchange Program. As of 2010 new partners of the JDZB include Germany Trade & Invest (gtai) (Gesellschaft für Außenwirtschaft und Standortmarketing der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) located in Berlin.

The following article is a contribution of one of gtai's Chief Executives, Michael Pfeiffer.

Despite the geographic distance, Japan and Germany share a great deal in common. Germany is still Japan's largest trade partner in Europe, while Japan is one of Germany's most important trade partners in Asia. Also in terms of investments, Japan is a preferred location for German investors, while Germany plays a central role for Japanese investors in Europe. The portfolio of Japanese direct investment in Germany totals over EUR 12 billion (as of 2007). But also in social and societal terms both countries share a close proximity. This is confirmed by looking at the size and development of their societies. Japan and Germany are confronted with similar demographic shifts. Both Asia and Europe are equally seeking suitable solutions to the challenges facing an aging population.

Japan and Germany both tuned in to the challenges of a globalized economy at an early stage. Both countries have developed a global reputation as excellent high-tech business locations by consistently focusing on cutting-edge research and development. Both countries – together with the USA and China – are driving the technologies of the future in all fields relevant to society. They confront enormous competitive pressure with steady research policy. State incentives focus on innovative activities and their market-driven realization. Alongside large companies that conduct their own R&D, small and medium enterprises can especially benefit from these measures.

But these incentives also have effects elsewhere. Namely by addressing the needs of young researchers and scientists in the natural sciences. In this vein, for example, the Junior Experts Exchange Program for young Japanese and Germans working in research institutes or in the research departments of companies, are invited to partake in bilateral research

tours. The bilateral program is funded in Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Germany by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as well as the Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology. The Japanese-German Center Berlin is responsible for the execution of the program in Germany.

Over the course of their stay, the young scientists become more familiar with the research institutions and visit technology companies. Through this exchange they are able to gain direct insights into the research developments in each country. The focal points are adjusted to the research interests of the individual participants. They speak with experts, make new contacts and foster current relationships while broadening their own network internationally. In addition, the program pursues the goal of familiarizing young researchers with the scientific locations in Germany and Japan, as they are often more familiar with US research. A natural consequence of this program is the long-term establishment of a Japanese-German network of young researchers, which can be tapped into for future research projects. Thus, it is also a focused marketing tool for the respective business locations.

For the work of *Germany Trade & Invest*, the foreign trade and inward investment promotion agency of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan plays a decisive role. In its investment promotion activities, *Germany Trade & Invest* focuses on reaching potential Japanese investors. Japanese companies benefit from the size of Germany's economy and its access to the largest single market worldwide. They can adopt the expertise of the high-tech business location as their own while relying on the strong potential of skilled workers. Germany's innovative capacity works ideally to the benefit of Japanese



companies that are equally reliant on innovation. The Junior Experts Exchange Program adds directly to the focused and anticipative networking of research activities and education in both countries. The program can also contribute to strengthening the basis for business success, namely excellent research and development, in both locations. Companies can rely on both local and internationally networked know-how. For its ability to succeed, tremendous credit goes to the Japanese-German Center Berlin.

Germany Trade & Invest is the foreign trade and inward investment promotion agency of the Federal Republic of Germany. The organization advises foreign companies looking to expand their business activities in the German market. It provides information on foreign trade to German companies that seek to enter foreign markets. Germany Trade & Invest can count upon an international network of industry analysts who perform on-site research into foreign markets and supports foreign businesses looking to establish a company in Germany. They work closely together with the German Chamber Network (AHK) abroad. This growing partnership allows German exporters and potential foreign investors alike to benefit from a centralized first point of contact overseas, with client-specific information and consultancy services all provided under one roof.

All inquiries related to Germany as an economic and business location are treated confidentially, and corresponding publications and services are free of charge (www.gtai.com).



Left photo: Panel Discussion of the conference “Risk and East Asia” (annual conference of the Association for Social Science Research on Japan) from November 20–22, 2009, at the JDZB.

From left: Prof. Irô Midori, Ph.D. (Ôtsuma Women’s University, Tôkyô), Dr. Suzuki Munenori (Hôsei University, Tôkyô), Prof. Anja Weiss (University of Duisburg-Essen), Prof. Yui Kiyomitsu (University of Kôbe), Prof. HAN Sang-Jin (Seoul National University) and Prof. Ulrich Beck (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich).



Above photo: On October 9 a panel discussion was held on art in public spaces and to celebrate the opening of the exhibition “Aquarium” by the artist Jârg Geismar (center), Prof. MINAMISHIMA Hiroshi (Professor of Joshibi University of Art and Design, Commissioner of the Japanese Pavilion, Biennale Venice 2009) and Dr. Stephan von Wiese (freelance curator Berlin and Kunstpalast Museum Duesseldorf).



Above photo: Speakers at the symposium “Berlin after the Fall of the Wall – Metropolis in the tradition of the European city?” held in Tôkyô on October 27, 2009.

From far right: former Director of Construction of the Berlin Senate Prof. Hans Stimmann, architect Prof. Petra Kahlfeld (University of Bologna), JDZB-Secretary General Dr. Friederike Bosse, architects Prof. KITAGAWA Atsushi (Tôkyô National University of Fine Arts and Music) and ISOZAKI Arata (Arata Isozaki & Associates) as well as the priest and landscape architect Prof. MASUNO Shunmyô.



Speakers, participants and organizers of the symposium “The Challenges of Demographic Change – Sustainable lifelong learning and digital media” on September 10–11, 2009, at the JDZB.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Workshop: European-Japanese Dialog on Non-Proliferation

C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin
Date: Spring 2010, in Tôkyô

Symposium: Perspectives for EU-Japan Cooperation

C: German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tôkyô; European Commission, Brussels
Date: to be decided in 2010, in Brussels or Berlin

RESOURCES, ENERGY, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT

Symposium: Biodiversity

C: University of Giessen; Japanese Ministry of Environment, Tôkyô
March 29-30, 2010

Workshop: Promoting Photovoltaics and Solar Energy

C: Fraunhofer Society, Tôkyô; Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE, Freiburg)
Date: Start of October 2010, in Tôkyô

DEMOGRAPHY

Symposium: Aged Care Legislation

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tôkyô; Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Tôkyô; University of Tsukuba; Mainichi Shimbun, Tôkyô
September 29-30, 2010, in Tôkyô

Symposium: Family-Friendly Policies in Enterprises

C: University of Giessen; University of Tsukuba
Date: to be decided in 2010

Symposium: Personnel Policies for the Aging Workforce

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tôkyô
Date: to be decided in 2010, Cologne or Hamburg

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Conference: Higher Education Reform in Japan and Germany – Opportunities and Challenges for Cooperation

C: University Rectors Conference, Bonn; Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchanges (JACUIE, Tôkyô); Japan Association of National Universities (JANU, Tôkyô)
May 17-18, 2010

Symposium: History and Location Decision-Making for German-Japanese Academic Relations

C: University of Halle-Wittenberg
Date: Fall 2010

Conference: Strategies to Improve Mathematics and Science Education in Japan and Germany

C: Free University of Berlin; Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST, Tôkyô); National Institute for Educational Policy Research, Tôkyô
Date: to be decided in 2010

Workshop: New Applications and Services of the Global Navigation Satellite System

C: Waseda University, Tôkyô; German Center for Air and Space Travel, Cologne (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt – DLR); International Office for the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research under the organisation of DLR; German Embassy to Japan, Tôkyô
Date: Spring 2010, in Tôkyô

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY

Conference: Corporate Social Responsibility

C: Free University Berlin
February 19, 2009

Workshop + Symposium: Leadership and Professionalism in Japan and Germany

C: Free University of Berlin; Shibusawa Eiichi Foundation, Tôkyô
Date: September/October 2010

Third German-Japanese Consumers' Forum

C: Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Tôkyô; German Federal Consumers Advice Association, Berlin; National Liaison Committee of Consumer Organisations (Shôdanren, Tôkyô)
March 3-4, 2010, in Tôkyô

Symposium: Robots and Society

C: Federal Armed Forces University, Munich; Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main
Date: to be decided in 2010

DIALOG OF CULTURES

Lecture by Prof. NOYORI (RIKEN) on Jan. 21, 2010

Conference: Mishima! World Wide Impact and Multi-Cultural Roots

C: Free University Berlin
March 18-20, 2010

4th German-Japanese Korean Grantee Seminar (11th Meeting of DAAD Grantees)

C: German Academic Exchange Service, Bonn
Date: July 2010

Panel Discussion: Contemporary Design

C: Japanese Cultural Institute, Cologne
Date: to be decided in 2010

SPECIAL PROJECT

19th Meeting of Japanese-German Forum

C: Japan Center for International Exchange, Tôkyô
November 12-13, 2010

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

- Junior Experts Exchange Program
- German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum
- Youth Group Leaders Exchange Program
- Study Program for Youth Work Specialists
- Exchange Program for Young Employees
- Takenoko Fund

For details of the programs, please refer to "<http://www.jdzb.de> --> Exchange Programs"

CULTURE

CONCERTS

98th Dahlem Music Evening

Concert Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the JDZB
January 15, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

99th Dahlem Music Evening

Piano Concert with Harada Kazue and A. J. Scherrer
April 23, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of Paintings by IKAI Setsuko and Gerda Berger

Opening: February 26, 2010, 7 pm
Showing until April 30, 2010

Opening hours of exhibitions:

Monday to Thursday 10 am to 5 pm,
Friday 10 am to 3.30 pm.

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

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

For **information on JDZB language courses** please refer to:
<http://www.jdzb.de> --> Japanese Courses



Prof. MIYATA Ryôhei, Präsident, Tôkyô University of the Arts, Tôkyô

Since 2005 President, Tôkyô University of the Arts
 2004 Vice President, Trustee, Tôkyô University of the Arts
 2001 Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tôkyô University of the Arts
 1997 Professor, Tôkyô University of the Arts
 1990 Associate Professor, Tôkyô University of the Arts
 1990 Research Fellow at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, within the Japanese Government Overseas Research Program
 1972 Master of Fine Arts in Craft, Tôkyô University of the Arts
 1945 Born in Niigata Prefecture



Dr. NOYORI Ryôji, President, RIKEN, Saitama

Since 2003 President, RIKEN Institute
 Since 2003 University Professor, Nagoya University
 2001 The Nobel Prize in Chemistry
 1997–1999 Dean of the Graduate School of Science, Department of Science Nagoya University
 1972–2003 Professor, Nagoya University
 1969–1970 Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University
 1968–1972 Associate Professor, Nagoya University
 1967 Ph.D., Kyôto University
 1963–1968 Instructor, Kyôto University
 1938 Born in Hyôgo Prefecture



TOYAMA Atsuko, President, The New National Theatre, Tôkyô

Since 2005 President of the New National Theatre Foundation
 2001 Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
 2000 Director-General, The National Museum of Western Art
 1996 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan to Turkey
 1994 Commissioner, Agency for Cultural Affairs
 1992 Director-General, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture (MESSC)
 1991 Director-General, Local Education Support Bureau, MESSC
 1985 Director, Planning Division, Higher Education Bureau, MESSC
 1982 Director, Lower Secondary School Division, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, MESSC
 1962 Official of the MESSC
 1962 Graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Tôkyô
 1938 Born in Mie Prefecture



Dr. Volker Stanzel, Ambassador, German Embassy in Japan, Tôkyô

Since 11/2009 Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan
 2007–2009 Political Director, German Foreign Office
 2004–2007 Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the PR of China
 2002–2004 Director-General for Political Affairs, German Foreign Office
 2001–2002 Director for Asian and Pacific Affairs, German Foreign Office
 1990–1993 Head of Press+Information Department, German Embassy to China
 1982–1985 Press und Politics, German Embassy to Japan
 1980 Ph.D. at Cologne University
 1979 Entry to the Foreign Service of the Federal Republic of Germany
 1972–1975 Study at Kyôto University, Japan
 1968–1972 Japanese and Chinese Studies, Political Science at Frankfurt University
 1948 Born in Kronberg near Frankfurt/Main