

25 Years Japanese-German Center Berlin

Ambassador Dr. Volker Stanzel

25 years ago when I left Japan after having worked for three years at the German Embassy in Tôkyô talks on establishing the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) had just ended on a positive note. With the signing of the founding agreement we – especially the first JDZB Secretary General, Dr. Thilo Graf Brockdorff, who was essentially the “founder” of the project from the beginning – had the feeling that not only would the old Japanese Embassy in the Tiergarten in Berlin be given a new lease of life, but we had initiated a project that would contribute to solidifying Japan-Germany relations.

Now, a quarter of a century later some things have developed differently to what we expected. The reunification of

Germany made it possible to reinstate the building of the former Japanese Embassy to its original purpose. The Japanese-German Center Berlin was given a new home in the southwest of Berlin. Although no longer geographically located in the heart of Berlin, its work has taken on a much more central significance than the founders could ever have imagined back in the years 1984/85.

Naturally and thankfully Germany-Japan relations today are comprised of a network of civil society relations reaching far beyond the capacity of just one “center,” and relations between players from each area have been cultivated and deepened. The Japanese-German Center Berlin is and remains a central hub in this network. It has significantly contributed toward our understanding of Germany

and Japan, providing us with a more modern and realistic image of the other country. Over the years the Japanese-German Center Berlin has taken up topics with courage and creativity and dealt with them using experts from both countries who were important in improving mutual knowledge and understanding. When dealing with the many issues facing both countries, the Japanese-German Center Berlin contributed by providing access to solutions and experiences of the other partner. Against a background of similar problems and global challenges we cannot underestimate this contribution. The Japanese-German Center Berlin always focused on current issues and the future at the same time. The quality of the relations that we have achieved today is thus an achievement of the Japanese-German Center Berlin as well.



First Japan Lecture: “Science and Technology for Future Generations” by Nobel Prize winner and JDZB Foundation Council Member Prof. NOYORI Ryôji (RIKEN) (center), with, from left, Prof. Matthias Kleiner (President, German Research Foundation), Prof. Herbert Schwarz (President, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation), Japanese Ambassador Dr. SHINYO Takahiro and JDZB’s Secretary General Dr. Friederike Bosse (page 4).

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Now that we are facing the next quarter of a century and Japan and Germany can look back on 150 years of shared history, we can see new tasks in view of the completely altered global economic and political constellations. Against this background, Japan-Germany relations will – as they have in the past – continue to evolve. With the experiences of the past 25 years, the Japanese-German Center Berlin will be an important leader for both countries.



Dr. Volker Stanzel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan

“150 Years of Friendship” between Germany and Japan

The Prussian Far Eastern Expedition headed by Count Friedrich Albert von Eulenburg landed in Edo Bay (now Tôkyô) in the autumn of 1860, and in 1861 a friendship and trade agreement was signed – the foundation for long and friendly relations between Germany and Japan.



日独交流150周年
Jahre Freundschaft
Deutschland – Japan

To celebrate this 150th anniversary, Germany and Japan are planning to hold a series of events in each other's countries under the heading “150 years of Friendship – Germany and Japan.”

We would like to value the treasures of our common past to build bridges with a focus toward the future. Our goal: to maintain existing and proven connections; to create new long-term contacts and to link Germany and Japan with new media. We would like to motivate young people to become more interested and involved in the other country.

Many opportunities for cooperation exist for activities within the framework of the anniversary year. If you would like to present your own activities in Japan at, for example, the Germany Festival in Yokohama, or if you would like to create your own event in Germany under the logo “150 years of Friendship,” we would like to hear from you.

For events in Japan, please download the application form from the website of the German Embassy in Tôkyô (www.tokyo.diplo.de). If you have any questions, please contact the German Embassy in Tôkyô directly (150Jahre@toky.auswaertiges-amt.de).

For events in Germany, please contact the Embassy of Japan or the Consulate General in Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt or Munich. Information and application forms can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.de.emb-japan.go.jp/dj2011/>.

Claudia Ehmke

Section Cultural and Media Relations Latin America, Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Near und Midle East, Pacific, Australia of the German Foreign Office

Dear “jdzb echo” readers!

The JDZB is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Over the years the JDZB has made significant contributions toward pro-moting intellectual exchange between Japan and Germany by co-hosting many conferences with various Japanese and German partner institutions. Numerous other activities have contributed toward reinforcing its position as an important player in German-Japanese intellectual and cultural exchange, for example, German-Japanese youth exchange, cultural programs, Japanese language courses, library and information services, and media and public relations.

The global environment has changed dramatically over the past 25 years; reunification of Germany, the end of the Cold War, EU enlargement, the rapid rise of India and China, the fight against global terrorism etc. In addition we face climate change, aging societies and many other issues and problems that Germany and Japan must approach together in their search for solutions. Japanese-German and Japanese-European dialog is now more important than ever.

In response to these challenges, the JDZB has established a series of “Japan Lectures.” In cooperation with the JDZB Society of Friends and the Embassy of Japan the first event was held on January 21 in the Embassy of Japan with a lecture by Prof. NOYORI Ryôji (photo page 1/article page 4). We look forward to expanding this lecture series with the support of our many partner institutions.

SHIMIZU Yôichi

Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB

jdzb echo

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From May 17–18, 2010, the JDZB will host the conference “Higher Education Reform in Japan and Germany – Opportunities and Challenges for Cooperation.” This event, held in cooperation with the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (Association of Universities and Other Higher Education Institutions in Germany, HRK, Bonn), the Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE, Tôkyô) and the Japan Association of National Universities (JANU, Tôkyô), will incorporate the JDZB into the ‘Berlin Year of Science 2010’ that commences with the series “Sciences in Berlin’s Southwest” on May 16.

Below is an interview with the Vice President of the HRK for International Affairs, Prof Dieter Lenzen (Hamburg University).



Currently there are approximately 3000 cooperation agreements between German and Japanese universities. What are the focal points of cooperation?

Japan is an important partner for German universities in Asia; the number of university partnerships has risen continuously. It covers all areas of university cooperation, ranging from student and academic staff mobility, to jointly developed study programs and joint research projects.

Japanese and German universities are facing similar challenges. Where are they similar, and where are there obvious differences? What will be the main issues for the future of universities in both countries?

I see the main challenges for German universities in the immediate future as driving forward the implementation of the Bologna Reform and making adjustments where required. We must also ensure continued autonomy of universities from the government. Moreover, universities must understand the process of internationalization as a process that not only concerns shaping curricula or conceptualizing research projects, but how it shapes the institution as a whole. There are parallels here with the Japanese university system: the autonomy of public universities has increased significantly there as well - a process that requires new instruments for management and quality assurance. Similar to Germany, the Japanese universities are facing considerable

globalization pressure which in turn promotes internationalization. At the same time private universities dominate in Japan with more than 70% of students educated at private institutions. This is very different to the German system.

University reforms in both countries create new opportunities for more structured cooperation. How far have we progressed in mutually recognizing academic qualifications or promoting mobility in graduate and postgraduate areas?

Over the past few years, both Germany and Japan have pushed forward the internationalization of universities. And in fact this has resulted in new potential for academic cooperation. Moreover, we have recognized both here in Germany and in Japan that universities must actively deal with the challenges of the globalization process in the areas of academic teaching and research. Inevitably this has resulted in stronger internationalization. At the same time, barriers exist particularly in the areas of mobility and qualifications recognition between Germany and Japan. The conference jointly organized by the HRK and JDZB specifically sought to topicalize these challenges and determine new solutions.

A few years ago there was a model project of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association) with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science to establish a German-Japanese graduate school. Has this project been completed?

Yes, this program has been running very successfully for five years. Meanwhile three joint graduate schools were established between German and Japanese universities as well as a trilateral graduate school between Germany, Japan and the USA. The focus of the colleges is the natural sciences, but happily we are finding this form of structured cooperation in the liberal arts area as well.

Which forms of German-Japanese scientific cooperation should be further expanded and which areas of cooperation should we promote over the long term in research and teaching?

Overall I would hope that the foundations for good bilateral cooperative relations between staff of individual universities lead to stronger and more structured partnerships which would unify the various forms of cooperation such as student mobility and co-developing curricula. We can already witness these trends in university cooperation with other countries; but there’s a need to reach similar levels of cooperation with Japan. Japan is an important strategic partner for us. The conference in May will offer a welcome opportunity to expand on existing contacts and create new areas of cooperation.

Blazing New Trails in Research

Prof. Anke Krüger, University of Würzburg

(received the JDZB Science Award 2006 of the Society of the JDZB)

On its 25th anniversary the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) is blazing new trails to deepen dialog between Japan and Germany.

On January 21, 2010, the Embassy of Japan in Berlin held the first event in a series of lectures conceptualized by the Japanese Embassy in cooperation with the Japanese-German Center Berlin and its Society of Friends. The series, titled "Japan Lectures", deal with various aspects of Japan's social development as well as the formation of its international relations. Welcoming addresses given by the JDZB's Secretary General, Dr Friederike Bosse and Japanese Ambassador Dr SHINYO Takahiro shared the common view that more intensive dialog between Japan and Germany benefits both sides; clearly demonstrating how exchanges in science and research have become a driving force behind German-Japanese relations.

As the first speaker of the "Japan Lectures" we were able to gain the world renowned Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry Professor NOYORI Ryôji, who spoke on the topic "Science and Technology for Future Generations." Prof. NOYORI was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2001 together with the Americans William S. Knowles and K. Barry Sharpless for their groundbreaking work on catalytic asymmetric synthesis. This is now indispensable for the production of important base chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Prof. NOYORI has been awarded several awards in Germany as well, such as Honorary Professor for both RWTH Aachen and the Technical University of Munich.

In his talk Prof. NOYORI spoke only briefly about his work. He was more intent on drawing an arc from the historical development of chemical research in Japan to a general overview of the current research landscape in the "Century of Innovation." Drawing on his experiences as Director of the renowned RIKEN Research Institute, he presented a detailed overview of the current policy of Japanese research, including its definition of key areas such as health, space travel, marine biology, nuclear technology and data management.

He discussed the responsibility of researchers against the background of demands made by the modern world such as imminent crises in energy, food supplies and the environment, which are insurmountable without the active participation of research scientists. He praised cultural diversity as a source of inspiration and intuition for researchers. According to NOYORI, social and specific cultural aspects of a certain country are reflected in the work of researchers, and this is not just limited to a scientific context. He spoke out against sacrificing these valuable differences in well-intentioned efforts to make globalization supposedly more efficient, and recommended we learn more about the diverging approaches both in theory and application in more exchange programs.

Prof. NOYORI proceeded to speak on the fruitful relations between Japanese and German universities and research institutes, reflected in the vibrant exchange between students and researchers. Nevertheless, he commented on the marked discrepancy between the number of Japanese researchers travelling to Germany as opposed to the few Germans travelling to Japan, who then spend part of their career there. This is in marked contrast to the exchange of students. In the following discussion Prof. Helmut Schwarz, President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, agreed with this comment and



stressed the need for further efforts to make exchange more attractive for researchers, not only students.

In the lively discussions many participants voiced strong opinions regarding the exchange of ideas between Germany and Japan as being of immense significance for sustainable development. In particular, questions related to Japanese research policy as well as its active implementation at RIKEN. The value of specific cultural influences in natural science research was repeatedly raised in discussions.

Overall, the event was an excellent setting for talks related to science and research policy issues. In addition to representatives from the media, many academics and scientists with Japan contacts as well as a number of Japanese visiting research fellows currently residing in Germany made this event a most interesting afternoon.



In 2006 the Robert Bosch Foundation established a Germany-Japan focus seeking to promote understanding among journalists about how they write about the other country through organising study sojourns for reporters. The first trip held in 2008 for Japanese journalists to travel to Berlin and Brussels was organized in cooperation with the JDZB; in the fall of 2009 a group of German journalists travelled to Japan. Below is report written by Ute Welty (Editor of SWR, and as of spring 2010 Deutschlandradio Kultur).

What can you do with twelve German journalists who have flown for more than 14 hours over eight time zones and at the end of their journey have been underway for more than 30 hours? There was little attention paid to the actual theme of the journey, it was more a blurring of boundaries between sleeping in shifts and “demographic shifts.” Not for nothing are overtired people often compared to drunks as being of unsound minds.

Yet the purpose of the Robert Bosch Foundation’s program is a very serious one. The journey to Japan is like peering into our own future. Similar to Germany in the 1960s, between the years 1947 and 1949 Japan experienced a high birth rate. These baby boomers are now entering into retirement. How has Japan dealt with their demographic challenges? How does it affect a society in which a fifth of its population is aged over 65 years? Before our brains can effectively deal with these questions we first need to pump some blood into this far away region of the body.

The location for the physical training is the “Wadaiko Drum Seminar.” In Japan all drums are called “daiko” or “taiko”; generally these are the so-called barrel drum and often cost as much as a car. To drum these requires considerable effort of the arms as well as legs. Nobody in the group can keep up with ATSUMI Keiko, even though she’s the smallest in the group she’s by far the fittest. With astounding patience ATSUMI Keiko deals with the overwhelmingly talent-less Europeans. Nonetheless she manages to create something similar to a rhythm among the group.

After a short period of drumming and a brief tour of the temple our sightseeing program is over. What follows is a very compact series of lectures organized by the Robert Bosch Foundation in cooperation with the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs (Keizai Kôhō Center, Tôkyô), a sort of think tank where the social sciences meet economic research. The sociologist YAMADA Masahiro from Chûô University in Tôkyô has developed his own theory why very few children are born in

Japan, similar to Germany. YAMADA holds the “parasite single” for responsible, and in Japan this is overwhelmingly female. While German woman want to define themselves through their work and thus abstain from having children – according to YAMADA – Japanese women want to define themselves through consumption. However, because Japanese men increasingly earn less money, Japanese women are abstaining from marriage and children. After they marry they are unable to continue with the same level of consumption and are thus unable to define themselves. Instead they choose to continue living with their parents until they reach the age of 40 or 45 and mostly without a partner – which makes it difficult for them to have children. After this presentation three journalist were invited to speak who clearly opposed YAMADA’s theory of falling birth rates in Japan and noted his comments would be his opinion only...

It’s these types of diverging approaches that make the program of the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Keizai Kôhō Center so interesting. In addition to talks with carefully chosen speakers from academe and politics we were also given a view into the practical

aspects of Japanese life, for example a tour of the social services center “Kôtôen” located in the northeast of Tôkyô. Here old people and children are cared for together, although only after a long period of introduction. The officials were anxious that the children could run over, injure or infect the older people. However, now they have worked out a system which benefits all participants. And the manager of Kôtôen, HAYASHI Yoshito, is convinced of this. Children from nuclear families would only live with their father and mother, they never get a chance to meet older or even disabled people – and this would lead to prejudices and discrimination through lack of knowledge. The eighty-year old TSUKAGUCHI Tsuruko has lived in Kôtôen since 2005 and feels very comfortable living there. Her face lights up when she talks about the children. She doesn’t have any grandchildren and can pass on her experiences and love to these children.

Practical solutions, theoretical considerations – after six days the German journalists gathered many impressions, as well as learning more about interpersonal relations. This was along the lines of Japanese customs: in contrast to Germany, Japanese dialog partners want to know exactly what sort of questions they will be asked; not because they want to control the content of the discussions, more because they want to be able to provide answers that are as correct as possible. Not being able to answer a question properly would mean losing face. And nobody wants to do that in Japan.



Symposium on the Perspectives of the German Economy held on November 30, 2009, at the Keizai Kôhō Center, the author Ute Welty at the far left.



Above photo:

Concert to celebrate the JDZB's 25th anniversary on January 15, 2010, with scenes from the opera "Madam Butterfly" by Giacomo Puccini.



Above photo:

Opening of the paintings exhibition „Afar – Close-up“ by IKAH Setsuko and Gerda Berger on February 26, 2010.

Photo right:

Reception given for the third German-Japanese Consumers' Forum on March 3, 2010, in Tôkyô.

Standing center FUKUSHIMA Mizuho (Minister for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety), standing behind Jürgen Gohde (Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe), standing left JDZB Foundation Council Member Prof. Gesine Foljanty-Jost (University of Halle-Wittenberg) and Rainer Metz (German Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection).

The Forum was held in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Tôkyô), the German Federal Agency for Consumer Protection (Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband, Berlin) and the National Liaison Committee of Consumer Organizations (Tôkyô).



Photo left:

Discussions at the conference "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – Japanese and German Approaches and Experiences" held on February 19, 2010, at the JDZB.

The panel was chaired by Prof. Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Freie Universität Berlin) and included the speakers Sam Mountford (Globe Scan) and SAKUMA Kyôko (Solvay Business School, Université Libre de Bruxelles).

The event was organized in cooperation with the Japan Foundation and the Institute of East Asian Affairs of Freie Universität Berlin.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Workshop: European-Japanese Dialog on Non-Proliferation

C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin
March 8–9, 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
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: Personnel Policies for the Aging Workforce

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tôkyô; Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft, Cologne
September 15, 2010, in Cologne

Symposium: Family-Friendly Policies in Enterprises

C: University of Giessen; University of Tsukuba
September 21, 2010

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

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

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY

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: Social Market Economy

C: Keizai Kôhō Center, Tôkyô; Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Tôkyô
June 18, 2010, in Tôkyô

Workshop + Symposium: Leadership and Professionalism in Japan and Germany

C: Freie Universität Berlin; Shibusawa Eiichi Foundation, Tôkyô
Date: September/October 2010

Symposium: Robots and Society

C: Federal Armed Forces University, Munich; Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main
Date: December 2010

DIALOG OF CULTURES

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

C: Freie Universität 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
May 22, 2010, in Werl am Rhein

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

99th Dahlem Music Evening

Piano Concert with HARADA KAZUE
and A. J. Scherrer
April 23, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

100th Dahlem Music Evening

Anniversary concert held within the framework of the Berlin Foundation week
June 4, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

101st Dahlem Music Evening

October 8, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE

June 19, 2010

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of Paintings by Setsuko IKAI and Gerda Berger

Showing until April 30, 2010

Exhibition of Art Books by Veronika Schaeper

Opening: October 14, 2010, 7 pm
Showing until end of 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



Photos, clockwise from above

- Opening of the former Japanese Embassy on Nov 8, 1987. His Imperial Highness Prince NARUHIRO symbolically hands over the key to the President of the JDZB, former Ambassador Kai Fumihiko
- Exhibition "German and Japanese Stone Sculptures" from June 27 to August 19, 1990
- Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister NAKASONE on Sept 19, 1988, at the JDZB tea house (photo: Bartels)
- JDZB Secretary General Dr. Thilo Graf Brockdorff (left) with the Chair of the JDZB Foundation Council Dr. Wilfried Guth and his wife standing in front of a painting by the artist and Foundation Council member HIGASHIYAMA Kaii
- Conference Hakone X "Japan and Europe in a New Era of International Relations," Sept 14–16, 1988

