

Berlin – City of Science, Partner of Japan

Professor Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Günter Stock

More than 350 years ago the current Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz (National library Berlin – Prussian Cultural Heritage) was first established as a private electoral court library that was also accessible to the public. More than 300 years ago, ten years after it was formally established, the Kurfürstlich Brandenburgische Sozietät der Wissenschaften, which later became the Prussian Academy of Sciences and the model for the current Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, received its statute enabling it to finally take up its current duties. 300 years ago the Charité was established and developed from a thankfully non-utilized plague house (the expected epidemic did not break out) to a hospital for military doctors

to one of the most important university clinics in Europe. 200 years ago and in accordance with the enterprising plans of Wilhelm von Humboldt the Berlin University (today called the Humboldt University Berlin) was established as the third phase of Humboldt's education plan, which became a model for the establishment of many universities around the world. And lastly, 100 years ago saw the establishment of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft, today known as the Max Planck Society, which was established for the purpose of enabling the realization of distinct and novel research projects in a separate institutional form beyond universities and academe.

Indeed, we celebrate five (!) anniversaries. Plenty of reasons for the entire City of Berlin and its surrounding regions to dispatch invitations to celebrate a Year of Science 2010 and highlight the fascinating history of sciences in our region. At the same time this year of anniversaries provides us with the opportunity to draw strength from and support the citizens of this city for the years that lie ahead – years that without excellence in science and research will be unable to be shaped successfully.

They were clear and strategic policy concepts and decision (starting with the Steinschen Reforms) that made the ideals and financial engagement of the (modern understanding of) civil society and



JDZB Open House on June 19: In addition to a live telecast of the Football World Championship between Japan-Holland, other highlights in the JDZB's anniversary year included a workshop for a dice kaleidoscope, a kimono fashion show as well as a showing of a film from the popular series "TORA-san." Origami, Ikebana and Shiatsu were also very popular with the numerous visitors.

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the targeted cooperation and personal networks between academe, universities and the Charité that made Berlin an often cited and much admired center for science and medicine in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Competition and cooperation are also the driving forces of trade; and together with other academic and research institutions as well the entire metropolitan region committed to the Year of the Sciences 2010 to open up a host of opportunities and reflect on the past, today and the imminent future.

We can clearly see that the new academic disciplines were developed in this metropolis of science, for example the establishment of Japan Studies. We know that the influences of Mori Ôgais, who worked for many years in Germany and predominantly in the Charité, reach far beyond the field of medicine.

Thus the existence of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) is not due to the fact that Berlin is the capital city

(indeed the JDZB was established a few years before the German Federal Parliament decided to relocate the capital back to Berlin), rather it is proof of how close relations are between Berlin and Japan since the 19th century – reason enough to include the Japanese-German Center Berlin as an eminent institution in the celebrations of the Berlin Year of Sciences 2010.



Professor Stock is the President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities as well as the Chairman of the Board of the JDZB Society of Friends.



Participants of the Conference "University Reform in Japan and Germany – Opportunities and Challenges of Cooperation", organised by the JDZB on May 17 and 18, 2010, in cooperation with the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK, Bonn) and the Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE, Tôkyô), held within the framework of the Berlin Year of Sciences 2010. (Photo: Weigelt HRK/JDZB)

Dear Readers!

This year the JDZB celebrates its 25th birthday. For more than a quarter of a century the JDZB has created a lively forum for scientific and cultural exchange between our two countries. Many thousands of scientists, academics, artists, politicians, business people, managers, journalists and students have taken part in our conferences, symposia, exhibitions and concerts. We look back with gratitude and indeed a sense of pride on the two and a half decades of rewarding dialogs which from the start included partners from all over Europe, Asia and the world.

We would like to celebrate the JDZB's birthday on October 20 in Berlin. A lecture will be given by former German Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. His relations with Japan have remained close ever since his incumbencies as Federal Minister for Finance and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Even after his departure from politics he has remained a constant visitor to Japan both as a public speaker and as a highly respected advisor – not least in his role a member of the jury of the Praemium Imperiale. A binding friendship developed between him and former Japanese Minister for Finance and Prime Minister FUKUDA Takeo.

In his lecture Helmut Schmidt will speak about the relations of Germany and Japan with their large neighbors Russia and China and draw some lessons from the changing, difficult history for our two nations today.

Matthias Naß, JDZB Vice President

jdzb echo

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

Publisher:

Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB)

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The jdzb echo can be downloaded as a pdf-document from the JDZB Homepage or subscribed to by E-Mail.

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In December, the JDZB in cooperation with the Goethe University Frankfurt, the Japan Foundation (Tôkyô) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science will organize a symposium on the topic of “Human-Robot Interaction from an Intercultural Perspective: Japan and Germany.” Below is an interview given by Dr. Cosima Wagner, Assistant Professor of the Institute for Japan Studies at Frankfurt University.

The popularity of robots in Japan first became a focus of discussions with the introduction of industry robots throughout the 1980s; and since the 1990s we have witnessed a newly invigorated interest in them. The great love of “Robophiles” has become a national characteristic that reaches back to a heritage of mechanical puppets (karakuri ningyô) of the Edo Period to the robot heroes of popular culture and the “Japanese Way of Robotics.” How can we best understand this?

We can understand it as an image strategy of Japanese institutions that draw reference from a sustained technology tradition which includes the production and acceptance of robots, particularly when we view it from a commonly held western belief (which continues even today) that the Japanese only copy technology and don’t invent themselves. However, I would describe the construct of the Japanese having a century-old “robot-loving national character” as an invented tradition.

As I argued in my thesis “Robotopia Nipponica – Studies on the acceptance of robots in Japan,” a cultural-scientific analysis of the phenomena of *karakuri ningyô* reveals that even though this was without a doubt a mechanically precise high-tech product of the Edo Period, it was forgotten by the Meiji Period and was only “rediscovered” in attics and museums in 1969 by the historian of science, TATSUKAWA Shôji.

Since 2002 the Japanese government has developed numerous measures to create a robot-supported society for the future. Current debates in Germany about using technical solutions for an aging society (in particular the use of robots as partners for humans) have been very critical; there are many concerns about using robots beyond manufacturing assembly lines. What cultural foundations are accountable for the varying levels of acceptance toward robots and their use in Japanese and German societies?

In Germany the ideological historical tradition of human-machine interaction is important, particularly the “man builds robot, robot kills man” paradigm that has existed since Golem, Frankenstein and the eponymous theater piece “Rossum’s Universal Robots” by Karel Capek from the year 1921 – all have negative connotations. Nevertheless, we can

clearly see a significant robot culture within the framework of popular culture, for example in youth culture ever since the 1950s. In interviews with Japanese engineers they often refer to the forerunner models such as the number one robot image in Japan, the good robot boy and friend of the people *Tetsuwan Atomu* – popularly known in the West as *Astro Boy* – by the animator TEZUKA Osamu, who was the godfather in his development of numerous current “social” robots, such as ASIMO at Honda.

Since Japan’s defeat in the Second World War there has been a strong motivation, particularly by the government, to portray technology as something positive and important for the people, but also outwardly as proof of strength. If we look at the World Expos of Osaka in 1970 and Aichi in 2005, where robots were chosen at both events to symbolize the strength of Japan as a high-tech nation – culture and technology and their political instrumentalization were closely interlinked.

Which ethical and legal issues result from a future collaboration of humans and robots?

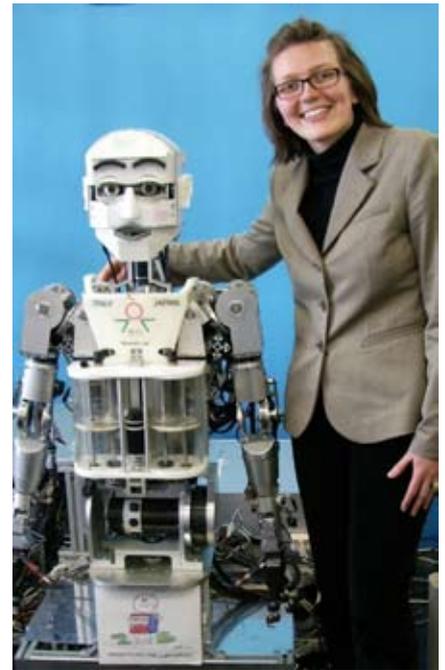
There are numerous issues that will be discussed at the conference in December, for example: is there a danger of substituting human contact by using “social” robots in caring occupations, for example? Will human contact be more intensive, and carers relieved of burdens? Does the utilization of technical gadgets lead to greater care for those people using them? Who is liable when accidents occur – the manufacturer of the robot, the software developer or the user?

Could robots offer a solution for the problems of an aging industrialized society of the future?

I’m sure they could for some situations. The search for a system of age-appropriate assistance to enable people to lead a healthy and independent life of high quality continues both in Germany and Japan. However, there are still very few mature, marketable examples of where robots can be used, and still quite a demand for more research and evaluations.

Are there any concrete examples in both countries for the successful application of robot technologies in everyday life?

Few, perhaps one of the better known ex-



amples from Japan is the therapeutic robot-robbe PARO now used throughout the world in quite a few care institutions dealing with dementia patients and autistic children. Other examples include the *Meal-assistance Robot MySpoon*, the HAL (*Hybrid Assistive Limb*) suit for physically disabled patients, or the mobile robot assistant Care-o-bot, which was developed by the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Automatization.

How can we shape the collaboration of humans and machines in both societies to make it not only as useful as possible but also economically feasible and acceptable to society?

Indispensable is that we engage in more intensive dialogs with those who develop, promote and sell technology and those who use them. From a scientific perspective this is above all dialog between scientists and humanists, but also the development of policies that take into account the needs of manufacturers and consumers, social institutions such as aged care facilities, with community care associations etc. An intercultural comparison enables a concurrent view toward alternative approaches and demonstrates the uniqueness of our own cultural practice of dealing with technology. The conference thus offers for the first time an excellent opportunity for Japanese and German scientists to discuss these issues from an interdisciplinary and intercultural perspective.

The German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2010: Non-Proliferation and the Civil Use of Nuclear Energy

By Dr. Oliver Meier and Prof. Götz Neuneck. Both lead this year's Young Leaders Forum; they work at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy from the University of Hamburg (www.ifsh.de).

Which steps can Japan and Germany take in order to drive forward nuclear disarmament? How can they stop the spread of nuclear weapons and foster responsible use of nuclear energy? These questions were the focus of the fifth Young Leaders Forum (YLF) organized by the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Foundation.

16 young leaders, half from Japan and half from Germany, met from June 26 to July 6 to discuss the problems associated with the civil use of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons control. The topic was particularly appealing because while Japan and Germany are united in their fight for nuclear disarmament, they have opposing positions regarding the civil use of nuclear energy. While Japan supports the expansion of the civil use of nuclear energy, Germany is committed to phasing-out nuclear power.

At the start of the Summer School the young leaders attended four days of lectures given by leading experts from the fields of politics, the economy and research/academe in the City of Potsdam. Topics ranged from problems associated with the implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the conflict area between civil and military use of nuclear power, to the effects of a "nuclear renaissance", and even to whether climate change can be stopped with the help of nuclear energy. Most presentations consisted of joint lectures given by German and Japanese experts, which then established the framework for the following in-depth discussions.

This part of the program was enriched through interviews with the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, official representatives from the German Federal Government for Disarmament and Arms Control of the German Federal Foreign Office as well as a public discussion at the Heinrich Böll Foundation entitled "A nuclear-free world or nuclear anarchy? After the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference." (Photo right) The Summer



School also included cultural events in the program, allowing participants not only an opportunity to learn about the topic at hand, but also a chance to learn more about each other. Participants attended a classical music concert at the Berlin Waldbuehne, took part in a guided tour of Potsdam, and even shared a Currywurst while watching a live telecast of the football world championships.

While some of the young economic specialists, academics, journalists and political decision-makers who had qualified for the Summer School already deal with nuclear issues in their work, for other participants it was completely new territory. Their very different backgrounds posed a few challenges for the seminar leaders; nevertheless their different perspectives enriched seminar discussions.

At the end of the final seminar and as part of the Summer School, participants were given the task of developing a Japanese-German action plan. With creativity and unbridled attention to detail an entire spectrum of politically relevant measures were developed with which Germany and Japan could promote a responsible handling of nuclear energy.

At the end of the seminar 22 alumni members joined the group. Together with participants they contributed to a round table discussion in the German Bundestag with a representative from the Japanese Embassy, a Federal German MP from Bündnis90/Die Grünen, and a staff member of the SPD Federal Party. This was

then followed by a study day with alumni members at the JDZB. The seminar participants then flew on to Vienna for the last part of the Summer School. Here they held discussions with the German and Japanese Ambassadors to the United Nations as well as staff from the International Nuclear Energy Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization.

From the perspective of the seminar leaders, the Young Leaders Forum was a complete success. The participants demonstrated an unbelievable motivation to work through all the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy from a security, energy and environmental perspective, despite the very tropical weather. Commonalities and differences between German and Japanese nuclear policies were raised time and again. The significance of binding legislation to stop the misuse of nuclear technology, the problems associated with responsible handling of this technology, and the difficult balancing act of advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy became the foci of discussions. Moreover, the different national perspectives toward the civil use of nuclear energy were also voiced repeatedly. At the end of the seminar a Japanese participant posed an open question of why most participants adhered to their own national stance toward nuclear energy when the actual argument is whether one is for or against nuclear energy. Indeed, this question should be addressed more strongly by political decision-makers.



Innovation in Germany, Innovation in Japan

NISHIKAWA Taku, Science & Environment News Dept., The Mainichi Newspapers

Despite all successes in the inventions of key technologies we often lag behind economically – this was the opinion voiced by Pascal Gudorf from the Deutschen Industrie- und Handelskammer (German Chamber of Industry and Commerce) in Japan at a preparatory seminar given at Waseda University for the participants of the “German Program for Japanese Journalists” run by the Robert Bosch Foundation. Indeed, this concern is often heard in Japan as well. In today’s world, considered an era of mega competition in the field of knowledge, all nations around the world compete fiercely to innovate. I already understood that Germany and Japan, whose development is based in science and technology, share a similar approach to the issue which only increased my interest in the program that took place from June 7 to 12.

As a journalist in Japan dealing mainly with policy measures that relate to science and technology, and higher education (training of qualified professionals), I am interested in two aspects. The first concerns the transnational rivalry/competition to attract quality staff to generate innovation. A specialist for European technology informed me that Germany actively encourages migrants and is very successful in attracting highly qualified employees from other countries. How do they go about attracting this large number of people to the country? How are they received by the local communities? I thought it might be very interesting for a country like Japan, where we are quite intent on internationalising our workforce, to look for myself at what’s happening in Germany.

Our research was made possible thanks to the assistance rendered by JDZB staff, and our findings completely met our expectations. We had the opportunity to carry out our own research for two days, and I visited, among others, the Free University of Berlin, which under the radius of action of “international networking university” has been recognised by the German Universities of Excellence initiative (model centre for the promotion of research and technology). We were also given a tour of the Welcome Centre that caters for foreign students. More than 24% of PhD students at the Free University Berlin are

foreign students. I assumed that the majority of these would come from European Union member countries and I was surprised to learn that they were mostly from the US, but also from Russia, Turkey and increasingly from China. The Welcome Center helps students with various formalities such as completing university forms and other applications, as well as offers intensive German language classes. I got the impression that this strong support for the work and daily life of foreign students is very important.

I held a very interesting discussion with Dr. INOUE Shigeyoshi from the Technical University Berlin, whom I met while on a solar-powered river cruise, about the various research conditions in Germany and Japan. Thankfully I was able to visit him the next day at his institute and ask a few more questions. Dr. INOUE is still a young man in his twenties and a scholar of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, he will be working in his own laboratory by the end of this year. This profound and economic support that is given without hesitation to young foreign researchers left a huge impression on me.

The second point that especially interested me was the political future of the German nuclear power phase-out. Climate change is a global topic, which is why people are moving toward extracting energy from nuclear power because we know that no greenhouse gases are emitted. France, Japan, Russia and other leading nuclear power countries are expanding national business by selling nuclear power plants to developing countries. It is thought that Siemens and Rosatom (Federal Agency for Nuclear Energy of Russia) are working together and it would be interesting to know what position the German government holds. Clearly we’re dealing with a sensitive time because my efforts to find out who the government and Siemens representatives are was unsuccessful. A telephone interview with the managing director of AREVA NP Ltd. did however take place and delivered some very valuable information.

I was given some other interesting impression from the tour of the Berlin Siemens Gas Turbine Factory. I would have thought that



Japan would be just as progressive in turbine technology which is why I was surprised to learn that Siemens manufactures for Japan as well. The German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology then provided me with an opportunity to lead a very honest and open discussion about the proliferation of electric vehicles.

A day trip to Brussels was included in our very tight schedule. Yet it gave us the opportunity to visit the capital of the European Commission that simply overwhelmed us. We gained an overview of the EU’s innovation policy that deepened our understanding of this area. There was not enough time for dinner so we returned back hungry to Berlin late at night. The Vietnamese dish “pho” that we ate together with Andrea Tischer (Robert Bosch Foundation) and Tatjana Wonneberg (JDZB) remains an unforgettable experience.

The weak economy that both Germany and Japan are currently suffering from poses a huge challenge. During the seminar on the first day a German participant asked whether Samsung or Nokia had actually created anything new. This proves to me that the people here are very proud of German technology. At times people emphasise the economic power of innovation but if I am honest I am tired of people seeing technology in this context alone. Although our research did not identify anything new, I am developing more sympathy for the attitude of holding high technological strengths that lead repeatedly to “authenticity”.

Let me finish by thanking all the staff of the Robert Bosch Foundation, the JDZB and Waseda University who compiled a most interesting and useful program and for whom I’m sure it was not easy to meet the egotistical demands and very varied interests of a group of journalists.

Photo right: KASHIWAGI Hiroshi (Musashino Art University) during the introductory seminar on the topic "Regional Rejuvenation of Industrial Design in Japan" given at the conference "New Regionalism in Industrial Design in Japan and Europe," held in cooperation with the Japan Foundation and the Vitra Design Museum at the Museum in Weil am Rhein on May 22, 2010.



Photo right below: Meeting of experts on the topic "Climate Policy after Copenhagen" held at the JDZB on May 28. (From left) Dr. Karsten Sach (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Reactor Safety, Berlin), KOBAYASHI Izuru (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry METI, Tôkyô) and Dr. Susanne Dröge (German Institute for International and Security Affairs SWP, Berlin).



Photo below: Key-note by Prof. Michael Eilfort (Honorary Professor of the University of Tübingen and Chair of the Foundation Market Economy, Berlin) during the symposium "The Social Market Economy in Europe and its Implications for Japanese Businesses" held in Tôkyô on June 18 in cooperation with the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs (KKC, Tôkyô) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Tôkyô). (Photo: The Japan Times)

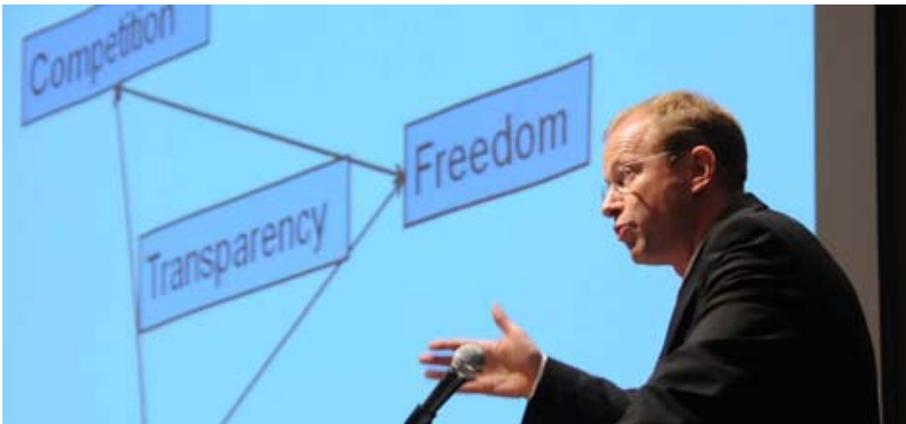


Photo below:

100th Dahlem Musical Soiree: anniversary concert with the Young Asian Chamber Orchestra Berlin YACOB held at the JDZB on June 4, 2010. Conducted by XIE Ya-ou, the ensemble of 24 young musicians – most of them come from East Asia, e.g., China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, but live in Berlin and other German cities – played various pieces by CHEN Yi, Arnold Schönberg and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

RESOURCES, ENERGY, CLIMATE,
ENVIRONMENT**German-Japanese Solar Day**

C: Fraunhofer Society, Tôkyô; Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE), Freiburg; New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Tôkyô; German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Preservation and Reactor Safety, Berlin; German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Berlin (tbc); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry METI, Tôkyô (tbc)

October 5, 2010, in Tôkyô

DEMOGRAPHY

Symposium: Personnel Policies for the Aging Workforce

C: Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft, Cologne
German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tôkyô;
German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology, Berlin

September 15, 2010, in Cologne

Symposium: Work-Life-Balance: Innovation Factor for Enterprises, Individuals and Society

C: Giessen University; Tsukuba University
September 20–21, 2010

Symposium: Aged Care Legislation

C: Japan Adult Guardianship Law Association, Tôkyô; The Mainichi Newspapers, Tôkyô; German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tôkyô; Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Tôkyô; Tsukuba University

September 29–30, 2010, in Tôkyô

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

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

C: Free University Berlin; Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST, Tôkyô)
November 23–24, 2010

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, CIVIL
SOCIETY**Symposium: Human-Robot-Interaction from an Intercultural Perspective: Japan and Germany**

C: The Japan Foundation/Japanese Cultural Institute Cologne; Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt; Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, Bonn Office; Nagoya University

December 7–8, 2010

LECTURES

Lecture by Former Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt: Germany, Japan and their Neighbours

Venue: Deutsche Bank, Unter den Linden
October 20, 2010, 6 p.m.

By invitation only

Lecture by Prof. MIYATA Ryôhei:

Venue: Embassy of Japan, Berlin
November 10, 2010, 12 noon

By invitation only

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

101st Dahlem Musical Soiree

October 8, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

102nd Dahlem Musical Soiree

Piano Concert (Mona Asuka-Ott)
November 10, 2010, 7 p.m.

103rd Dahlem Musical Soiree

Christmas Concert
December 10, 2010, 7.30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by MIYATAKE Kikue

Opening: October 4, 2010, 7 pm
On display until October 10, 2010

"Gasagoso" Artists' Books by Veronika Schäpers

Opening: October 14, 2010, 7 pm
On display until November 30, 2010

Wood Prints by Eva Pietszcker und Olaf Dahlhaus

Opening: December 3, 2010, 7 pm
On display until February 2011

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nô-Theater: Ensemble "Komparu" playing *Funa Benkei* and *Aoi no Ue*

Venue: Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

Date: January 19 + 20, 2011

Tickets: www.hkw.de/komparu

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



Photos above and left

Inaugural Celebrations held on June 3, 1998 to open the new premises of the JDZB.

From left: JDZB President Former Ambassador Kimura Keizō; the Premier of the German Federal State of Brandenburg, Dr. Manfred Stolpe; Former Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro; the Chair of the JDZB Foundation Council, Dr. Wilfried Guth; Japanese Ambassador to Germany, KUME Kunisada; the Senator for Justice for the City State of Berlin, Dr. Erhart Körting, and Ambassador Dr. Jürgen Sudhoff from the German Federal Foreign Office



Photos left, from above

Nobel Prize Winner Ôe Kenzaburo and TAWADA Yôko (with Wolfgang Kissel) at a reading held at the JDZB in January 2000

The Chair of the JDZB Foundation Council, Dr. Ulrich Cartellieri (May 2000 until May 2005) and his deputy, Prof. OSHIO Takashi (October 1989 until October 2008) during the 19th Meeting of the Foundation Council, October 2003

Participants of a JDZB Exchange Program, September 2000 at the JDZB



Photo below

German Federal President Johannes Rau at the opening ceremony of a panel discussion in Tôkyô on German-Japanese cooperation in the fight against terrorism, July 2002

