



## Foolish Ignorance

**The stoicism of the Japanese is not exotic.  
Our ignorance toward a foreign culture is exotic.**

**By Matthias Nass (DIE ZEIT, March 24, 2011)**

We could be like the editor of a German news magazine. In the middle of the night she called the philosopher Kenichi Mishima in Tokyo and wanted him to give a telephone interview about the nuclear catastrophe. When Mishima reminded her of the time difference she sent him an email shortly thereafter (“one or two quotes would suffice for our article”), in which she posed the following unforgettable questions: “Why do Japanese keep living in Japan? (...) We find it very surprising, can you explain it? Why do the Japanese remain calm and in Japan?”

Mishima, according to Japan Studies circles in which the newspaper’s request were circulated, was “hurt, disgusted, offended.” And we should all be a little bit ashamed because of so much foolish ignorance.

Yes, why do the Japanese stay in Japan? 127 million people: surely they should have all packed their bags some time ago. Why do they stay at home. At a time when Germany is hoarding iodine tablets and contamination meters, when foreigners are storming the check-in counters at Tokyo’s airports, the Japanese were queuing in front of government offices to hand in their tax returns by the March 15th deadline. A strange folk.

Focused on finding and burying their dead in the earthquake regions. Then finding a shelter for the survivors and providing

them with blankets, rice and water. Then connecting the damaged reactor in Fukushima back to the power supply system to avoid a nuclear meltdown. You don’t just get up and leave.

Perhaps what’s strange is not the behavior of the Japanese, but our astonishment about their discipline, sense of order and calmness. To quote Kenichi Misihima again who wrote the following in the Frankfurter Rundschau: “Were not most citizens affected by the floods in the German State of Saxony only a few years ago just as disciplined and helpful? Back then a few know-it-alls voiced their amazement at the Teutonic talent for organization and German self-discipline. I thought this was foolish.” Let us be careful with blanket statements about national characteristics of people, foreign only to us.

In the meantime we think it is a legitimate question to ask why the Japanese were able to keep their composure and maintain social order in such a remarkable manner. There were no looters, no riots. When we compare the reaction of the Japanese with the situation in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, we can determine the level of civilization in dealing with such catastrophes. In contrast to New Orleans the “the desperate right of the mightier” did not govern, as Uwe Schmitt wrote in the Welt.

The Japanese have lived on shifting soils since time immortal. Earthquakes, typhoons, tsunamis have accompanied their civilization since the beginning. They understand the transience of all things. Shinto’s most sacred Ise Shrine is torn down every twenty years and rebuilt. The Japanese are not as naïve to believe they could conquer nature with technology. However, they do all they can to perfect technology to harness the destructive forces of nature as far as possible.

Individuals are helplessly confronted with the forces of nature, from which they can only flee. Historically this may

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be the strongest reason for the Japanese people's pronounced sense of community; for the order of the group. Certainly, community spirit can often easily be transformed into social coercion, conformism and slavish obedience. We can find many inglorious examples of these behaviors in Japanese history. A love of order gives rise to a fury of legislation; the belief in hierarchy hinders a talent for improvisation. Creativity, personal responsibility – what the Japanese may lack, they make up for in their readiness to make sacrifices. But even here we have to be careful when crediting the Japanese with exemplary heroism. The ethos of providing assistance embraces all continents. The Americans still celebrate as heroes their police force who hurried up the stairs of the World Trade Center to help the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Both the gallantry and calmness with which the volunteers in Japan brought the Fukushima reactor back under control inspired great admiration. The "Fukushima Fifty" will go down in the history books as heroes.

Honor, loyalty, sacrifice – all of these would play no greater role in the daily life of a Japanese citizen than they would in ours. And yet: the story of the 47 Samurai who remained faithful beyond the death of their betrayed lord, and who followed him – after they had avenged their master's honor, to their own deaths by *seppuku* – ritualized suicide; this episode from the Edo Period in the year 1703 is known by all Japanese even today. The 47 Samurai became the symbol of honor. In contrast and according to modern Japanese sentiment the kamikaze pilots who dived on US war ships in the Second World War embody a fanatical sacrificial cult of those who subjugated themselves to their pledge of loyalty to the Tenno.

Hirohito, the then Tenno formally repudiated his divine status in the holy empire on New Year's Day in 1946. According to

the constitution, the Tenno is now only "a symbol of the State and the unity of the people." At the same time, last Wednesday when Emperor Akihito, Hirohito's son, appealed to his people, for the first time ever regarding a current event, Japan listened up. His words: "I sincerely hope that we can keep the situation from getting worse" could be understood no other way than as a direct order to do all that is humanly possible to prevent any maximum credible accidents.

The Emperor may be of little significance to most young Japanese. However for the older generation the institution of the Tenno is still a symbol and embodiment of Japanese uniqueness. And this is where we approach a minefield, because uniqueness is only a step away to national purity and superiority arrogance. Most Japanese are less terrified than Edmund Stoiber when discussions turn to a "pure race society." It is no accident that the number of foreigners living in Japan is today still less than 1% of the total population.

Japan, wrote the essayist Ian Buruma, "is the most insular of all nations." Buruma discusses the neurosis of a country that since its existence was positioned on the boundaries of a great civilization. In his wonderful book "God's Dust: A Modern Asian Journey" Buruma writes: "the question what it means to be a Japanese – what is the essence of being Japanese? – It's like a bad tooth that everyone picks at." However, there's not only the western stylization of Japan as the "completely other", against which the Japan Studies expert Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner warns us (*Das Ende der Exotik*, Suhrkamp). According to her "the Japanese exoticize themselves." This is expressed in a questionable manner in the *nihonjinron*, the "Japan Theories". In Japan not just a few worry about the "racial purity and integrity of the Japanese."

The need for self-assurance is huge. Year in year out, the media debates what is uniquely Japanese. "The Japanese spirit is the object of almost sick consternation,"

wrote Buruma. The soul of the nation: how it is revitalized, defended, held up as a model to the world – politicians, journalists and academics rack their brains continually about this nebulous certain something.

Just like in Germany! We'd like to shout out loud. The Sarrazin debate – nothing more than a recent addition to a never ending dialog about German character? The anxieties of an aging and decreasing population, questions about the recent past and what's normal, the strange connection between mystical nature and engineering salvation – all strangely familiar to us. The Japanese are not exotic to us in their stoicism. Our ignorant view toward foreign cultures is what's exotic. I boldly predict that is our interest in Japan will fade away with the radiation in Fukushima.

Thankfully, however, Fukushima is not "everywhere," and to date it has not become the second Chernobyl. And this is actually due to the bravery of a few hundred workers and technicians. And to the calmness of a disciplined people who rolled up their sleeves and, with tears in their eyes, begun working.



Matthias Nass is the Chief International Correspondent of the Weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT and Vice President of the JDZB. Reprinted with the author's kind permission.



Participants of the 5th German-Japanese-Korean Grantee Seminar at the JDZB. This twelfth meeting of German Academic Exchange Service grant recipients was held on May 23 and 24, 2011.



Eleven boys aged 13-14 year participated in the first JDZB's "Boys' Day" with staff on April 14, 2011. The boys learned all about how to organize a binational/international conference about Manga and how the JDZB's different departments are involved in organizing a conference. Due to its success and everybody having a great time, the JDZB has decided to organize another "Boys' Day" next year.



Opening of the photo exhibition by SHIMMURA Takuji "Topographies Berlin, Jerewan, Paris" on April 1. The exhibition was on display at the JDZB until June 3, 2011.

Dear Readers!

The summer edition of the *jdzb echo* stands under the long shadow of the catastrophe that hit Japan on March 11 and which continue to reverberate even today. It not only changed the life of the people in the region and all over Japan, but also had a large impact on many of Japan's friends. This edition of the newsletter outlines the efforts of the JDZB to help deal with the catastrophe and its consequences.

The main article written by Matthias Nass clearly demonstrates how great the need is for factual information between Germany and Japan. The JDZB's role as a platform for Japan AND Germany is more evident today than ever before. We proudly take on these tasks and warmly invite you to a discussion on July 7 about the role media has played in covering the catastrophes. You are also invited to our next Open Day on 25th of June where you can make a donation and learn more about our other programs.

On the preceding day we will welcome HRH Crown Prince Naruhito, who is the patron of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Germany-Japan relations, and whose strong ties have bound together our two countries.

Dr. Friededrike Bosse  
JDZB Secretary General

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The staff of the JDZB was greatly affected by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear reactor catastrophes in Japan. The work of the Foundation has also been touched by these events, above all in the following areas:

- A fund raising campaign to assist children and youth in the disaster areas
- A series of events on topical issues, information, including an exchange program
- Assistance within a realistic framework to the search for information and providing direction for donors and other volunteers

#### FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

After much consideration the JDZB decided to create its own fundraising campaign and give the funds raised directly to projects dealing with children and youth within the framework of reconstruction aid for the regions affected by the catastrophes. Nonetheless, we will need some time to identify concrete and sustainable projects with our Japanese partners. We warmly thank all those people who have donated and supported the campaign and kindly request your continued patience.

The JDZB organized three charity events and memorial concerts in which all artists and musicians performed free of charge. The JDZB would like to take this opportunity to thank them warmly for their support and for the generous donations! Participants of the Japanese beginners' classes 1 and 2 also collected donations for Japan during the opening of the exhibition "Berlin – Jerewan – Paris." Further fundraising campaigns to which the JDZB has been appointed manager of funds, include funds raised by students from the 6th grades of Finow Elementary School in Schöneberg and Mercator Elementary School in Steglitz-Zehlendorf, as well as parts of funds raised through a charity auction of artworks by Japanese and international artists "Fujiyama in Red" and another raffle of artworks. More information about individual fundraising campaigns can be found on our website under the heading "Spenden für Japan" (donations for Japan).



The children's choir of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden during the second charity concert on April 15th

#### CONFERENCES/EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

The effects of the catastrophes in Japan and on the conference and events organization of the JDZB were quite noticeable, but manageable.

- A conference with the German-Japanese Lawyers Associations and Keiô University



- An additional event to the program included a symposium in Tôkyô on the reconstruction of the regions affected and the economy. This is a collaborative project planned to take place in September 2011 with the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs in Tôkyô.

in Tôkyô was postponed from April to the beginning of November, mostly because Keiô University has to deal directly with the consequences of the catastrophe.

- A planned conference on "Leadership and Professionalism" was replaced with a conference topically related to the role of Japanese and European media and their news reports on the consequences of March 11th, 2011. This will take place at the JDZB on July 7th.

*KOMIYA Hisako (piano) and Ritsuko GÜNTHER (soprano) performing Japanese songs at the third charity concert on April 28th*

- The Young Leaders Forum held in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Foundation and planned to take place at the beginning of June in Tôkyô will now be held in Ôsaka. It was important to set a sign that such programs could continue to be held in Japan in its current situation – even when taking into account the official travel warnings of the Federal Foreign Office.

It was uncertain whether a conference on the "Significance of Manga in Japanese Children and Youth literature" planned to be held at the JDZB a week after the catastrophe would go ahead. We consulted and then decided with our Japanese partners to continue with the event. The online German news journal "Spiegel Online" gave a very detailed report about our dilemma entitled "Hexe Kiki hilft Jap-

anern beim Weiterleben" (Kiki the witch helps the Japanese to continue living), in which our decision was reported as well considered and positively received.

The catastrophes also affected the German-Japanese Study Program for Youth Workers; we had to postpone the planned study tour of the German delegation to Japan from May to later this year. Moreover, we noted a marked decrease in the number of applicants in comparison to last year.

Further impacts could also be felt by the fund financed by Daimler and their subsidiary firm Mitsubishi Fusô Truck & Bus Corp: the Takenoko Fund for German-Japanese Student Exchange program administered by the JDZB. Thus, a group of Japanese high school students from the affected region of Sendai had to postpone their planned visit to Germany to the spring of 2012. Similarly two German groups of students had to completely cancel their trip to Japan which was planned for March and April. However, we can confirm there are two groups of Japanese school students visiting Germany in July. Although we cannot yet speak of a normalization of the situation, the JDZB is making every effort to continue to implement the various exchange programs.

#### AID ASSISTANCE/INFORMATION

In the first few days and weeks after the catastrophe the JDZB was inundated with countless enquiries about information and various aid projects. For example, a German-Japanese group of information designers were looking for a nuclear energy expert because they needed information for a graphical representation of radiation exposure. Here we were able to provide the contact details of a young Japanese nuclear scientist who participated in the Young Leaders Forum in 2010. We were also able to help with the numerous enquiries and field questions from the media by giving interview ourselves and mediating many other contacts in Germany and Japan for further discussions.

On the suggestion of the German Federal Foreign Office, the JDZB was asked to play a role in the creation of greater



*Ambassador Dr. SHINYO Takahiro, Ambassador Hans-Joachim Daerr and JDZB Secretary General Dr. Friederike Bosse at the first charity concert on April 8th*

transparency for aid projects. Thus, in close cooperation with the Foreign Office's task force "Sea Quake" and with their delegate for Japan Aid, Ambassador Hans-Joachim Daerr, and the Embassy of Japan to Germany organized a round table discussion to take stock with institutional and organizational representatives who wanted to contribute to aid projects, for example, the Association of German Cities and town, individual federal states, German-Japanese Associations, the German-Japanese parliamentary group and many others.

#### OUTLOOK

The catastrophes in Japan created much consternation, arousing feelings of deep sympathy, and a wave of willing helpers. Many donors were keen to find out more about aid projects and donate money to concrete projects. Due to the situation in Japan, both our Japanese partners and other aid organizations are still trying to determine the extent of damages while they busily prepare for reconstruction. We kindly ask for your patience. The JDZB is engaged in discussions with all those concerned, both in relation to internal reconstruction efforts as well as providing adequate and orderly accounting processes to deal with donations. We kindly ask for your continued support and trust in our services.

### CALL FOR DONATIONS

The staff of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) remember with great sorrow the victims of the devastating natural and environmental catastrophes in Japan. We extend our deep commiserations and support to all those affected, to their families and friends. We share your feelings of hope and trepidation for assistance and a speedy rectification of the situation.

The JDZB would like to help. We kindly ask for donations to help those affected in Japan, in particular to provide assistance to the children and youth of the regions affected by the devastation. The JDZB has a wide network of contacts in Japan through its youth and exchange programs who will be able to ensure the donations reach those most in need.

Children and youth are the future of every country.

For all those that would like to help, the JDZB has established a special account for donations. Every donation is needed!

Account Holder: Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin

Account Number: 6000054902 - Bank Code Number: 100 500 00 (Landesbank Berlin)

Purpose: "Japan helfen" (Help Japan)

Donated money as of May 26: 162.438 Euro

We thank you for your generous support!

If you require a receipt for your donation, please send us an email to [spenden@jdz.de](mailto:spenden@jdz.de) with the name and address of the donor, the amount, and the date the money was transferred.

After March 11, 2011, the three-fold catastrophe in Japan shifted the country back into the public limelight and to a certain extent influenced the work of those who deal with Japan. This especially applies to the JDZB and the Association of German-Japanese Societies (Verband der Deutsch-Japanischen Gesellschaften) as an amalgamation of 50 German-Japanese Societies who have set themselves the task of promoting German and Japanese relations as one of their goals. The following is an interview given by the President of the Association, Dr Ruprecht Vondran.

*How did you respond personally to the terrible news in Japan?*

On the morning of March 11 I was traveling along the autobahn. The dreadful news, harrowingly told, surprised me while I was at a service station. I needed some time to understand the incomprehensible in all of its dimensions. I waited at the service station for the next news report in which the President of our sister association in Japan, KOMORI Shigetaka, and his colleagues expressed our deep sympathies. Shortly thereafter a call for help went out to all of our 50 societies and friends.

*It's very important to maintain contact and exchange information with Japanese-German Associations and their umbrella organizations in Japan. Do you have any news to report from the Japanese-German Associations located in the immediately affected areas?*

With all the sadness and internal agitations – the people remained externally composed and demonstrated even in emergency situations a high level of discipline, tenacity and readiness to help others. Wherever we went we were met with appeals to fellow countrymen and women, both written and verbal, to gather their strengths together and persevere: *"Gambare Tôhoku, gambare Nihon!"*

*There are many different fundraising campaigns; even your Association has initiated one. What is the current situation, and how can we help Japan in real terms?*

I can give you a quick summary of what our Societies have collected and what's been deposited in the Association's joint account: we have received a total of one million Euro. The amount is not derived from large donations, rather it's the sum of a number of small donations and proceedings from many different initiatives at various locations: kindergartens, schools, circles of friends, handicraft groups, firemen... Because we work on a volunteer basis we are able to give the whole amount without any deductions to the victims. We will decide together with our Japanese friends how the money will be spent.

*Just this April you visited Japan with a group on a two-week friendship tour that took you from Tôkyô up through the mountains over to the Sea of Japan on the other side and then to Kansai in the west. Please give a short account of your journey.*

Our visits were regarded as an expression of our special connectedness, particularly because many had left Japan in panic or had moved to the far south of the country. And, with the exception of the immediate surrounding area of the catastrophe, radiation levels were never any higher than what is considered normal in Germany.

*At the end of the visit there was a partnership conference in Nara. Have there been any results? Will the catastrophes influence future cooperation?*

We have to make new plans – there won't be a joint ceremony, however we will hold together a dignified memorial service for the victims to be led by Abbot Kono from the Buddhist temple Daianji. Then there's a working group which will include the Governor and the German Ambassador. The most important result: aid from Germany shall go towards helping young people because the catastrophes have robbed them of a large part of their future.



*The year 2011 was given the theme "150 Years of Germany-Japan Friendship" and has now been so dreadfully overshadowed. Do you think there will still be opportunities to adequately celebrate this anniversary year?*

The tsunami should not be allowed to wash away our future plans. It is now more important than ever to raise our understanding of what we have achieved over the 150 years. There are countless highlights. For example, the exhibition "Ferne Gefährten" (Distant companions) initiated by the Association. We are really very proud that we were successful in attracting significant funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Reiss Engelhorn Foundation, and Professor Panzer as the curator. The exhibition is planned to open in Mannheim toward the end of October.

*What are your overall expectations from German-Japanese exchange in the near future?*

At the moment German-Japanese relations are being maintained by the older generation. We have to win over the younger generation, their ideas and creativity, their idealism and their dynamic.



(From left): Dr. Vondran and Marianne Mönch (Honorary Chair of the German-Japanese Association Bonn) with JDZB President KUME Kunisada and his wife in the Kume Museum in Tôkyô in front of pictures of his ancestors in April 2011.

**CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS POSSIBLE, PLEASE CHECK ALL EVENTS WITH OUR WEBSITE!****CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS****GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY****Conference: China and the United States in Asia: Conflict or Cooperation**

C: German Association for Asian Studies, Hamburg  
June 17, 2011

**Symposium: Germany – Japan – Russia Potentials for the Future**

C: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin; Institute for International Policy Studies, Tōkyō  
October 7, 2011, in Tōkyō

**German-Japanese Workshop on Security Issues**

C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin  
December 6, 2011

**RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT****Symposium: Sustainable Tourism**

C: bayern design GmbH, Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization, Tōkyō  
Date: Beginning of November 2011 in Tōkyō

**2nd German-Japanese Solar Day**

C: German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Preservation and Reactor Safety, Berlin; Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies, Tōkyō  
November 18, 2011, in Tōkyō

**Symposium: Cultural Landscapes – Biodiversity in Shifting Socio-Economics**

C: University of Gießen, University of Tōkyō; Global COE "Asian Conservation Ecology"  
Date: not yet determined

**DEMOGRAPHY****Symposium: Growth in Sustainable Industry Structures in Japan and Germany**

C: Fujitsu Research Institute, Tōkyō; Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin; Cologne Institute for Economic Research  
June 28, 2011



Events in Germany:

<http://www.de.emb-japan.go.jp/dj2011/index.html>

Events in Japan:

<http://www.dj150.jp/d/events.php>

**Conference: Long Term Care II**

C: German Federal Ministry of Health, Berlin; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Tōkyō  
August 29–30, 2011 (by invitation only)

**PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE****Symposium: Innovation and Challenges in Supporting Excellent Researchers in the Future**

C: DFG German Research Foundation, Tōkyō; Japan Science and Technology Agency, Tōkyō; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology (MEXT), Tōkyō  
July 15, 2011, in Tōkyō

**Symposium: History and the State of the Nation – Current Views of German-Japanese Academic Relations**

C: University Halle-Wittenberg  
Date: Summer 2011

**STATE, ENTERPRISE, CIVIL SOCIETY****Symposium: The Disaster and the Role of Conventional and New Media – A Comparative Look at How Japan and Germany Reported on the Earthquake**

C: The Japan Foundation, Tōkyō  
July 7, 2011

**Conference: Reconstruction in Northeastern Japan**

C: Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs, Tōkyō  
September 30, 2011, in Tōkyō

**Conference: Happiness – Does Culture Matter?**

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tōkyō  
November 21–22, 2011

**DIALOG OF CULTURES****150 YEARS FRIENDSHIP GERMANY–JAPAN****Conference: The Jōmon Period Phenomena and the Eurasian Neolithic**

C: German Archaeological Institute, Berlin; Hakodate City Archaeological Organization  
October 28–30, 2011 in Hakodate

**Panel Discussion: Cultural Institutions in Berlin**

C: Goethe Institut Japan, Tōkyō; Festival "You Are Here: Berlin – Tōkyō"  
Date: Beginning of November 2011 in Tōkyō

**Conference: German-Japanese Digital Memory**

C: University of Bonn; Bürkner & Bürkner GbR  
Date: 2nd half of 2011

**SPECIAL PROJECT****20th Meeting of Japanese-German Forum**

C: Japan Center for International Exchange, Tōkyō  
October 4–5, 2011

**CULTURE****CONCERT****105<sup>th</sup> Dahlem Musical Soiree**

June 10, 2011, 7.30 p.m.

**106<sup>th</sup> Dahlem Musical Soiree**

September 16, 2011, 7.30 p.m.

**OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, June 25, 2011, from 2 p.m.

**EXHIBITION****Photo Exhibition "Japan between Tōkyō and Niigata"**

Opening: June 15, 2011, 7 p.m.  
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; June 25 from 2 until 9 p.m.  
On display until June 30, 2011

**Retrospective "Hokusai"**

Opening: August 25, 2011, at 7 p.m.  
Venue: Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin  
On display until October 24, 2011

**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"

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



## PROGRAM

(Subject to change without prior notice)

**Make a donation for Japan!**

**From 2 pm**

**Ikebana (flower arranging) with exhibition**

**Japanese food and drinks**

**Japanese language courses**

**Manga and Books (Book Store Yamashina)**

**Origami (paper folding)**

**Shūji (calligraphy)**

**Tea Ceremony (please check time on website)**

**2.15 pm Information about the JDZB**

**2.30 pm–6 pm Shiatsu (Acupressure)**

**2.30 pm Stretching Exercises**

**4 pm Introduction and Demonstration**

**2.45 pm–6.15 pm Lectures on Japan related topics**

Please check topics on website

**3 pm + 4 pm Reading of Children's Books in the Library**

**3 pm + 3.45 pm + 4.30 pm + 5.15 pm**

**Manga drawing with Marie (20 persons per workshop)**

**7 pm**

**Modern Dance with HARIYAMA Emi (Staatsoper Berlin) & Co.**

**7.45 pm**

**Concert with Japanese drums, "Taiko Connection"**