

Impressions of a Country between Trauma and a New Beginning

Dr. Rolf Mützenich, MP

Parliamentary groups are not official bodies of legislative action. They can neither influence foreign policy decision-making nor take parliamentary initiatives. Nevertheless they can be helpful. Against this background the German-Japanese Parliamentary Group acted within the scope of its powers in 2011. It was unusual that all German political party factions in January this year honored the 150 years of Japan-Germany relations and put forward

recommendations to intensify these in a joint declaration. Even the Japanese parliament passed a similar resolution. A German delegation planned to visit Japan at the end of March on the basis of this agreement and thus pay tribute to the sustained and fruitful, but also evolving friendship between Japan and Germany.

Things turned out differently. As a result of the threefold catastrophe (earthquake, Tsu-

nami, Fukushima) on March 11, 2011, we had to postpone our trip. It was only later in September that we were able to make the journey. We saw a country that was still in a state of shock, but at the same time it appeared confident in its ability to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. The efforts undertaken so far to repair the destruction and heal the personal injuries were impressive – yet the tragedies were tangible. Talks with fishermen whose very existence had been robbed by the Tsunami or with



Foto from left: The German Ambassador to Japan, Dr. Volker Stanzel, Education Minister Prof. Annette Schavan and both of the Co-Chairs of the Japanese-German Forum (DJF), MOGI Yūzaburo (Honorary CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kikkoman Corporation) and Prof. Bernhard Scheuble (Chair of the JDZB Foundation Council) in the German Embassy on the occasion of the 20th Meeting of the DJF, October 4-5, 2011, in Tōkyō. (Photo: German Embassy, Tōkyō)

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people who have been living in cramped and makeshift quarters for months on end, remain imprinted in our memories. We listened to unforgettable and hauntingly sad reports. We witnessed huge solidarity and experienced the gratefulness of people who had lost so much or indeed everything. Our sorrow and condolences go out to the families and friends of the more than 16,000 dead and 4,000 missing.

Especially valuable were the visits of the Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito to Germany in June this year and the most recent visit of the German Federal President to Japan at the end of October, whom I accompanied as Chair of the German-Japanese Parliamentary Group. Federal President Wulff expressed Germany's sympathy and the great friendship between both countries, and his condolences to the relatives of the victims of the flood and nuclear power plant catastrophe. The attention given to the trip in Japan was unusual. We were particularly moved by our encounters with those affected in the Fukushima region. I will never forget the story of an older Japanese gentleman. He had survived the terror of the Second World War and the deprivations thereafter. He had

helped his country rebuild. The Tsunami took away his house, his property and his friends. His wife was missing for the first few days after the disaster. It was only in the emergency accommodation for those evacuated from the surrounding areas of Fukushima that he saw his 80 year old wife again. This, he said sitting in a barely furnished room, was his second honeymoon. This story says much about a country that is so far away from us – but whose closeness we should constantly seek. Earthquakes, Tsunami and nuclear accidents created a wave of sympathy that reveals how close the ties are that bind the German and Japanese people. If we MPs can contribute to strengthening and deepening these ties, we'll do all we can.



Dr. Rolf Mützenich, MP, is Foreign Policy Speaker of the Social Democratic Party Faction in the German Bundestag and Chair of the German-Japanese Parliamentary Group.

Dear Readers!

2011 was expected to be a special year for German-Japanese friendship. And so it was, even if initially we had planned it very differently. The threefold catastrophe that struck Japan on March 11 created some problems for a few of the projects scheduled to help celebrate the 150 years of friendship. Nevertheless, the series of events quickly resumed and many other activities were added. Fundraising, charity concerts, support for reconstruction efforts reveal not only how deep the feelings between Germans and Japanese run, but how we can rely on each other in times of hardship as well. The confirmation of this friendship, as outlined by Rolf Mützenich in this edition's cover story, is a positive result of an eventful year.

The JDZB will continue to contribute toward dealing with the consequences of the catastrophes through its planned conferences and visits for next year.

On behalf of the JDZB staff I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2012.

Dr. Friederike Bosse
JDZB Secretary General

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Travel and Symposium “Rebuilding Japan” Uwe Schmitt, WELT-Group Correspondent in the US, Washington

About six months had passed since the “Great East Japanese Earthquake” and three German journalists came together via an invitation from the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, JDZB) and the Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs (Keizai Kôhō Center) in Tōkyō for a “Study Tour.” Susanne Steffen (freelance Japan correspondent for FOCUS magazine and others), Sven Hansen (Head of the Asia Pacific Desk of the daily “tageszeitung”) and Uwe Schmitt (correspondent of the WELT-Group in the US and author of this report) spent three very intensive days ... learning. From September 27–30 we attended a total of eleven interviews and working dinners in Tōkyō; a further five meetings in a single day in Tōhoku. The study tour was held under the motto Rebuilding Japan (sic: and not Rebuilding Tōhoku).

You couldn’t help but learn a lot with such a wide range of topics. For the fitting term “Study Tour” I would like to thank Rolf Hempelmann, SPD Member of the German Bundestag and keynote speaker of the closing panel discussion. Hempelmann MP, speaker for energy policies of his party and a member of the Japanese-German Forum, was unknown to the author of this report. In his remarkable speech and involvement in the panel he demonstrated critical but friendly solidarity toward Japan that I would wish from a German MP abroad (and often don’t find). Mr Hempelmann linked his admiration for people’s sober reaction to the three-fold catastrophe with a call to see it as an opportunity for a new approach to energy. Germany and Japan have had especially intensive experiences with rebuilding their countries, said Rolf Hempelmann; whereby the 1.5 billion Euros in aid money transferred to eastern Germany since 1990 is not without controversy. He was convinced that Japan would emerge stronger than ever from the “3/11” crisis.

In my talk I was not quite so convinced of the desired learning effect that the “3/11” shock would have on Japan’s political class. The comparison with the sudden blossoming and wilting of the eight-month government of HOSOKAWA Morihiro 1993, the first non LDP head of government since 1955, leaves me little hope of a “return” to which the name deserves. In view of the LDP’s blo-

ckade policy, the new Prime Minister of the governing Democratic Party of Japan (Minshutō), NODA Yoshihiko, will need to retain all of his sense of humor as a mud squirming loach fish (dōjō), in order to move something worth mentioning for the good of the Japanese until the new elections for the head of the party in Minshutō are held in September 2012. All the more admiration I have for the brave people in the crisis region whom I visited three months after the catastrophe for an article “Japans stille Helden” (Japan’s silent heroes), published on June 12, 2011, in WELT AM SONNTAG. It was heartening to see the progress made in cleaning up and plans for reconstruction at the end of September.

Susanne Steffen placed great hope in the Tsunami damaged areas in Tōhoku for a rebirth away from out-dated and unproductive agricultural practices into high-tech farms. “Designer vegetables,” “plant factories,” and artificial soils were the keywords in her fascinating paper about “a revolution that has already begun.” Just as Susanne Steffen during the interviews and in the panel discussion never lost sight of an agricultural renaissance, Sven Hansen persistently questioned the influence and self confidence of Japanese civil society. His findings, with a critical eye on the state-supported low key force in the Japanese media “I am not certain whether they should be included in the social process to the extent it would be desirable.” Hansen was clearly irritated that four of our discussions partners, two high-level bureaucrats



and two prominent journalists from both large daily newspapers insisted in remaining anonymous in our reports. What were they afraid of, were they admitting their (in all cases not scandalous) opinion with their name? At the same time Sven Hansen agreed, and basically on behalf of the whole panel, that there cannot be a quick and easy solution for a nation that has lived in chronic crisis for two decades even before the devastation of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant disaster.

Time and time again the three participants of the “Study Tour” and the four panel members made efforts not to appear as know-it-alls, something for which the Germans are often accused of (and with good reason) abroad. Each individual stressed how many unsolved problems still need to be addressed by the Germans, European and Americans. There was no cause for any feelings of superiority. We still have to wait and see if and how Japan will use this opportunity to regenerate; owed to the memory of the 20,000 dead, the ruins, the radio-active contaminated soil and the welfare and support for successive generations. The study tour continues for us and for all those who look toward Japan.



Throughout the year the JDZB offers its partners the opportunity to present their organizations and activities. President of the *National Institution for Youth Education* (NIYE, Tôkyô), Tanaka Sôichirô has provided the below overview.

Thanks for Donations

Japan was hit by a violent catastrophe. After a monstrous earthquake reaching a magnitude of 9.0 on March 11, 2011, at 14:46:23 hours local time struck off the east coast of Japan in the Pacific Ocean, causing a massive Tsunami; 15,872 deaths have been recorded and 4,086 people are still missing (as of September 11). Moreover, the damage to a nuclear power plant in the Fukushima Prefecture meant that many people had to abandon their homes. In view of the catastrophe, the JDZB collected donations for Japan, which were in part handed over to the NIYE by the German Federal Foreign Office to ensure funds raised were used to help the youth of catastrophe-affected regions. I would like to express my immense gratitude to the citizens of Germany and all the JDZB staff for their help. Thank you!

Germany and Japan will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Friendship and Trade Treaty between Prussia and Japan by holding numerous events and activities throughout the year. Youth exchange programs between Germany and Japan enjoy a long shared history. Regular activities in this area begun in 1954, and 1972 saw the establishment of the "Japanese-German Study Program for Experts in Youth Work." This exchange of youth and young experts between the two countries continues today. Since 2005 the NIYE has taken over the planning, preparation and development of these programs.

The National Institution for Youth Education

The history of state-run youth education institutions in Japan began in 1959 with the establishment of the National Central Youth House to honor the marriage of the current Emperor. This was followed by the construction of a further 13 National Youth Houses up to the year 1976. In commemoration of the XVIII Olympic Games in Tôkyô the Olympic Village was rebuilt into a youth institute in 1965 and established the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center. The 100th anniversary of the modern Japanese school system in 1975 offered an opportunity to establish the National Muroto Children's Center, that then expanded to a further 14 similar centers across the country up to the year 1991. In the year 2006 these in total 28 institutions were unified and the National Institution for Youth Education (NIYE) was established.

All of these above named state-run institu-

tions are under the responsibility of NIYE and are used as locations for experiential education – such as camps, nature parks and mutual exchange – to train more than 5 million youth and youth work specialists each year. In particular, the National Olympics Memorial Youth Centre located in Tôkyô was completely renovated in 2001 and becomes the second home for many youth from around the world when they visit Japan on exchange programs.

The Major Earthquake in East Japan and Caring for Youth

In view of the recent catastrophe the NIYE organized beds and food for the victims and refugees in the *Nasukashi Youth Center* and *Bandai Youth Center* in Fukushima Prefecture as well as in the *Hanayama Youth Center* and *Myôkô Youth Center* in the neighboring prefecture. The head office in Tôkyô dispatched their own staff to the youth centers in Nasukashi and Bandai which operated as meeting points and collection locations. Above all young staff repeatedly volunteered their services to rebuild the damaged city of Rikuzentakata (Iwate Prefecture). The NIYE organized a further three "Emergency Earthquake Volunteers Meetings" for approximately 600 youth from all over Japan who helped prepare the volunteers and disseminate information about the earthquake region.

During the summer holidays from the end of July until the end of August, so called four-day "Refresh Camps" were held at the *Nasukashi Youth Center* and the *Bandai Youth Center* for children from primary and junior high schools from Fukushima Prefecture, where they could not play much outside or swim at the pools due to the fear of exposure to dangerous radiation. 3,823 children attended who were cared for by 141 NIYE staff and 353 young volunteers from all over the country. The kids went to the swimming pool, hiked in the mountains or played happily outdoors. The camps will be continued in other seasons as well (*photo below*).



Youth Camp for Disaster Management Training Funded by Donations

The importance of regular disaster management training was again clearly confirmed with the case of the junior high school in Kamaishi Higashi (Iwate Prefecture) where all students were able to save themselves by reaching higher ground and the huge 19 meter Tsunami did not claim any victims. NIYE would like to use the funds donated for youth training in this field. So far they have planned one concrete project that would reach out to as many schools and high schools as possible, especially in the affected region Tôhoku but also in Maiko High School in Hyôgo Prefecture, where they practice disaster management training in the Kansai region, the location of the Hanshin earthquake in 1995. Topics such as "disaster management training," "creation of disaster-resistant cities" or "categories of volunteer workers" shall be discussed, raising thereby the consciousness of disaster management. This project shall be organized in February 2012 under the heading of "National Disaster Management of High Schools" in the west Japanese *National Awaji Youth Friendship Center*. NIYE would like to release the results to Japan first and then the world, and in the future seek to include youth from many other countries.

I would like to close by extending my gratitude to all JDZB staff and citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany who greatly helped us with their kind donations.





Above photo: An unusual sight at the JDZB during the 110th Dahlem Musical Soiree on October 12, 2011: Argentinean tango was danced to the music of the group CANTANGO NUEVO.



Left photo: Opening of the exhibition "Joseph Beuys: 8 Days in Japan and the Utopia of EURASIA" on October 7, 2011. The video documentation about the artist's stay in Japan in 1984 is on display until January 1, 2012, in the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum for Contemporary Art in Berlin.

Right photo:

Opening of the exhibition "A View toward Asia" on November 4, 2011, at the JDZB

The puppet maker FURUTA Aya started making puppets out of antique materials from Asia 30 years ago. Three themes of puppet figures can be seen in Berlin until January 6, 2012:

- I. The soul of Japan – hina puppets with their gagaku court musicians
- II. Family love – encounters with different folk groups
- III. Peace message – musician



Speakers at the symposium "Hokusai in Context" held November 14–15, 2011, at the JDZB. This symposium was held to complement the Hokusai Retrospective in the Martin Gropius Bau Museum (August 26 until October 31, 2011) and was co-organized by the Japan Foundation (Tōkyō), the Martin Gropius Bau Museum (Berlin) and the Freie Universität Berlin.



Ceremony at the occasion of a double anniversary: 40 years of German-Japanese exchange of youth work specialists and 150 years of German-Japanese Relations. State secretary Josef Hecken (Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, BMFSFJ) is welcoming the participants on November 29, 2011, at the JDZB.



Lecture evening on "German-Japanese Relations in the Sciences" on November 10, 2011, at the Embassy of Japan. The German perspective was overviewed by Prof. Jörg Hacker (President of Leopoldina), the Japanese by Ambassador Dr. SHINYO Takahiro.



The long-term member of the JDZB Foundation Council, Prof. SOTOBAYASHI Hideto, was awarded the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Award for Special Service to German-Japanese Cooperation on September 16, 2011; moreover he has been recognized as a "Special Eyewitness for a World without Nuclear Weapons." He is pictured with his wife, Ambassador SHINYO Takahiro (left) and the Mayor of Potsdam, Jann Jakobs.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Conference: Rio plus 20

C: German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), Berlin

Date: April/May 2012

German China Discourse

C: German Institute of Global and Area Studies (Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien), Hamburg; German Association for Asian Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde), Hamburg

Date: To be confirmed, in Tôkyô

German-Japanese Security Workshop II

C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin; Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (CPDNP) at the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA), Tôkyô

Date: To be confirmed

RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, CLIMATE ENVIRONMENT

Symposium: Potentials of Regenerative Energies

C: Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung), Berlin

Date: February/March 2012

Second 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

Date: Spring 2012, Tôkyô

Symposium: Future Industry and Energy Policies

C: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

Date: July 2012, Tôkyô

Conference: Resources, Energy and Climate – Opportunities and Challenges in Germany and Japan

C: Wuppertal Institute for Climate the Environment and Energy; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Tôkyô

Date: End of 2012

DEMOGRAPHY**Symposium: Time Management as a Family Policy**

C: Tsukuba University; Gießen University
Date: September 2012

Lecture/Panel Discussion: Labor Shortages: Alternatives to immigration – a Japanese solution?

Date: To be confirmed

PROGRESS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE**Conference: Satoyama in Crisis – Challenges in protecting and sustainably using cultural landscapes in Japan and Germany**

C: University of Tōkyō; Gießen University
Date: To be confirmed

Conference: Improving the Teaching of Mathematics and Natural Sciences II

Z: Freie Universität Berlin; Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST, Tōkyō)
Date: To be confirmed, in Tōkyō

Symposium: German-Japanese Cooperation in Catastrophe Protection

Date: To be confirmed

STATE, ENTERPRISES, CIVIL SOCIETY**Symposium: Modernization of the Law of Obligation**

C: German-Japanese Lawyers Association (Deutsch-japanische Juristenvereinigung (DJJV), Hamburg; Max Planck Institute for International Private Law, Hamburg
Date: End of 2012

Symposium: Social Effects of Large Catastrophes on Communities

C: Duisburg-Essen University; The Japan Foundation, Tōkyō
Date: To be confirmed, in Tōkyō or Sendai

Symposium: Infrastructure Reconstruction in Tōhoku

C: Institute of Behavioral Sciences (IBS), Tōkyō
Date: To be confirmed, in Sendai

Conference: Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Europe-Japan

C: German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Forschung), Berlin; European Business Council in Japan (EBC), Tōkyō
Date: to be confirmed

DIALOG OF CULTURES**European Policy Seminar**

C: German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Bonn)
Date: September 2012

Panel Discussion: Asia and German Unity 1989/90

C: Institute for Contemporary History (Institut für Zeitgeschichte), Berlin
Date: Second half of 2012

SPECIAL PROJECT**21st Meeting of Japanese-German Forum**

C: Japan Center for International Exchange, Tōkyō
Date: November 2012

CULTURAL EVENTS**CONCERT****113th Dahlem Musical Soiree**

January 13, 2012, 7.30 p.m.

New Years Concert: GOTŌ Makiko (Koto) + Takashi Bernhöft (Violine)

114th Dahlem Musical Soiree

Date: Spring 2012

Chamber Concert with Viola Quartet

115th Dahlem Musical Soiree

Date: Fall 2012

Concert with NAKAMURA Tempei (Jazz Piano)

116th Dahlem Musical Soiree

Date: To be decided

Concert with MANABE Naoyuki (Shō, Japanese mouth organ)

EXHIBITION**“Lumiere” Installation by UCHIKURA Hitomi**

Opening: January 24, 2012, 7 p. m.
On display until February 24, 2012

“Tegami – Messages from Japan”

Opening: March 8, 2012, 7 p. m.
On display until April 13, 2012

KATŌ Atsuko (Painter) and KATŌ Kuniko (Sculptor)

Date: Fall 2012

Watercolor Paintings by AMANO Yutaka

Date: to be decided

PARLOR CHAT

with the conductor SADO Yutaka, N.N.
March 28, 2012

MOVIE**Documentary on the topic: Energy Turning Point**

Date: March/April 2012

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



Symposium "Germany – Japan – Russia: Potential for the Future" held on October 7, 2011, in Tôkyô, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS), Tôkyô.

Left photo: The former Prime Minister and founder of the IIPS, NAKASONE Yasuhiro, welcomes Prof. Heinz Riesenhuber MP at the reception held on the eve of the symposium, standing center is the German Ambassador, Dr. Volker Stanzel.

Right photo: Panel discussion on German-Japanese-Russian relations with (from left): Prof. Friedbert Pflüger, King's College, London; Dr. Mikhail Nosov, Deputy Director for Research, Russian Academy of Science; Andreas Schockenhoff MP; Ambassador Tôcô Takehiro, former Japanese Ambassador to the Russian Federation.



The speakers at the conference "Phenomena of the Jômon Period and the Eurasian Neolithic," held October 28–30, 2011 in Hakodate in cooperation with the German Archaeological Institute (Berlin) and the Hakodate City Archaeological Organization.



Panel discussion about the Berlin arts scene on September 23, 2011, held in the auditorium of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOT) in Tôkyô. Participants were welcomed by former Minister TOYAMA Atsuko, President of the Toyota Foundation and Member of the Foundation Council of the JDZB.



The Vice President of the German Academic Exchange Service, Prof. Max Huber (left) and the President of the German-Japanese Association of Jurists, Dr. Jan Grotheer, at the conference "Transfer of Rights in Japan and Germany," held November 3–4, 2011, at Keiô University in Tôkyô. (Photos: Sonja Blaschke)