

## Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies On Site

Japanese–German exchange on

### *Climate protection and regional development*

Commemorating the start of its new research focus “The Future of Local Communities in Japan: Risks and Opportunities in the Face of Multiple Challenges,” the DIJ in cooperation with the German Embassy and the University of Tokyo’s Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST) invited two delegations from rural municipalities in Germany to visit Japan. Funded by the Climate Fund of the Federal Government, the aim of the one-week excursion was to facilitate and scientifically consult an exchange between local communities in Japan and Germany in the field of climate protection and renewable energies. The five-day trip in Japan was opened by a symposium at the Europa-Saal of the Goethe-Institut in Tokyo.

Renewable energies (RE) simultaneously provide the chance to limit human-induced global warming and solve local economic and social problems. At the symposium “Climate Policies as a Chance for Regional Development: Renewable Energies in Japan and Germany,” politicians at the national and local level met with scientists, entrepreneurs and representatives of civil society to discuss common interests and regionally specific challenges concerning climate change and CO2 reduction.

The symposium started with keynote speeches from the German ambassador to Japan, Hans Carl von Werthern, and Kentaro Doi of the Japanese Ministry of Environment.

Japan’s civil society was represented by Noriaki Yamashita of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP), who pointed towards progress and innovation in local communities, whose potentials in self-sufficiency with renewable energies goes far beyond the 20% envisioned by the Japanese government for the aggregated national level for 2030. However, local communities now need a reliable legal framework in order to plan for the future. Tilo Schmid-Sehl of RenEnergy Crossboarder highlighted the connections between RE and regional development in Germany, where electricity and heat from biomass together with biofuels constituted 70% of the turnover in RE. The huge advantage of biomass, he explained, is that it can alleviate fluctuations in solar and wind power and that it presents a new business model for agriculture. Higher production costs would be compensated because expenses and revenues remained in the local region, which resulted in virtuous circles in regional development.

The following day, the representatives of the German municipalities took off for the prefectures Fukuoka and Ishikawa. The delegation from St. Peter (Black Forest) visited the town of Ōki. The delegation from Rettenbach (Allgäu) travelled to the town of Kanazawa and from there on to Shiramine, a former village that is now part of the town of Hakusan.

The poster for the symposium features a colorful background with abstract shapes in yellow, pink, and green. The text is in German and Japanese. It includes the title 'Deutsch-japanisches Symposium Klimapolitik als Chance für die Regionalentwicklung', the subtitle 'Erneuerbare Energien in Japan und Deutschland', and the Japanese title '日独シンポジウム 地方創生のチャンスとして温暖化対策'. It also provides the date '5. Oktober 2015', time '10:00 bis 19:30', and location 'Goethe-Institut OAG Haus, 7-5-56 Akasaka, Minato-ku Tokyo'. A QR code is visible in the bottom right corner.

Deutsch-japanisches Symposium  
Klimapolitik als Chance für  
die Regionalentwicklung

Erneuerbare Energien in  
Japan und Deutschland

日独シンポジウム  
地方創生のチャンス  
として温暖化対策

日本とドイツにおける  
再生可能エネルギー

5. Oktober 2015  
10:00 bis 19:30  
Goethe-Institut  
OAG Haus  
7-5-56 Akasaka  
Minato-ku Tokyo  
Deutsch/Japanisch (simultan) 日本語/ドイツ語同時通訳  
Teilnahme kostenfrei  
Anmeldung unter [forum@dijtokyo.org](http://forum@dijtokyo.org)

2015年10月05日(月)  
10時～19時30分  
ドイツ文化会館  
OAGホール  
東京都港区  
赤坂7-5-56  
参加費無料  
申込みメール

Botschaft  
der Bundesrepublik  
Deutschland  
Tokyo

DEUTSCHES  
INSTITUT FÜR  
JAPANSTUDIEN

RCAST  
東京大学 国際科学技術連携センター

One thing the village of St. Peter and the town of Ōki have in common is that they generate a huge amount of their energy demand from local biomass. St. Peter operates its own district heating grid, which is powered by burning wood chips from the local forestry industry. Ōki turns wet biomass from households and agriculture into methane, which fuels electric generators. This way, waste is reduced while fertilizer and electric power is produced.

Both the village of Rettenbach and Shiramine have experiences with political district mergers; however, in the case of Rettenbach, this has been reversed by a local citizen initiative. Rettenbach used its regained municipal independence to transition its energy supply to local renewable resources. Since then the village has experienced growth, both in population and in business. Located between mountains and forests, the geographically isolated district of Shiramine has a high energy demand. There are small experiments being conducted utilizing the immense local wood resources. However, mobility, transportation, heating and melting of snow from roofs and terraces are mainly fuelled by burning mineral oil. The development in the mountainous district of Shiramine largely depends on political decisions made in the municipal centre of Hakusan, located far away on the coast of the Sea of Japan. The visit of the delegations has been reported in local newspapers in Japan and Germany.

On October 9, the participants came together with citizens of both municipalities for a concluding workshop in Tokyo. Very strong was the impression that Japan is abundant in various

## Nuclear power



► Joachim Radkau.



► Hitoshi Yoshioka.

**Why does Germany quit, why does Japan stay? This question was discussed on December 11, 2015, by Professor Joachim Radkau and Professor Hitoshi Yoshioka. Both are experts on the history of nuclear energy in their respective home countries and authors of well-known monographs on the topic.**

Joachim Radkau pointed out that anti-nuclear protests did not originate in Germany, rather first occurring in the US and later in France. German intellectuals had originally been in favour of the “peaceful atom,” only changing during the 1970s. According to Professor Radkau, who besides being the author of a classic book on the history of German technology also published a book on the “Age of Anxiety,” the perception that Germans are naturally fearful (*German Angst*) and opposed to new technology is not tenable.

A definite answer to the original question concerning the “why” was not provided, but important factors and differences were pointed out. The German anti-nuclear movement was not only more pragmatic, ready to engage in party politics and able to organize on a national level, it also managed to align with critical experts, journalists, lawyers and, last but not least, with the protestant church. The Left in Japan, on the other hand, was ideologically driven, less willing to ally with other social movements and unable to evolve into a nationwide movement. Furthermore, Germany’s *pro*-nuclear lobby has also never been as well and effectively organized as its Japanese counterpart. This is exemplified by the fact that there has been no approval for new nuclear power plants in Germany since 1982. Both speakers concluded that the topic offers vast potential for further German–Japanese discourse. *F.W.*

## Climate protection (continued)

renewable resources and technologies, but that knowledge and initiatives are unequally distributed. The participants wished for more support by the government and a more intensive knowledge exchange among each other. The DIJ

wishes to foster and scientifically research this knowledge transfer within the frame of its research focus and by building up a digital database on projects for climate protection and regional development in Japan. *D.K.*

## Management of companies in Asia

**The “2016 Management Theory and Practice Conference” got underway at Kyoto University with the opening speech on April 3 by Vice President Prof. Yoshihiro Tokuga. Researchers from Asia, Europe and the US presented their latest findings on topics such as corporate governance, the management of multinational teams and integration management in Asia.**

The DIJ contributed with the paper “When Organizational Justice Matters for Affective Merger Commitment,” which was jointly presented with Prof. Ralf Bebenroth from Kobe University. Based on empirical research on the acquisition of one Japanese company by a German competitor in the same industry, the research focused on the effects that fair management behaviour has on the employees’ merger commitment after an acquisition. The research results

showed that employees seek an involvement and participation in internal decision-making processes directly after the acquisition announcement. At the later stage of the integration phase, the importance of transparency and clear flow of information increases, whereas the need for participation decreases. Target employees’ immediate demand for an involvement in decision-making processes was found to be higher than for bidder employees, in all likelihood, since their jobs are at stake. Employees who are affected directly also demand a stronger integration. The findings showed that management needs to integrate target employees quickly into decision processes. Overall, the results of the conference point towards the need to always keep the business context in mind when engaging in activities in Japan and the rest of Asia.

► **Kai Oliver Thiele**, is a PhD student at Hamburg University of Technology and visiting doctoral researcher at Kobe University. His dissertation focuses on employees’ views on cross-border M&As in Japan. [thiele@dijtokyo.org](mailto:thiele@dijtokyo.org)

## Creating a society in which all women shine?

**On November 17, 2015, the DIJ hosted a forum titled “Creating a Society in which all Women Shine? The Politics behind the Policies for the Advancement of Women.”**

Prime Minister Abe’s impressive rhetorical commitment to promote and implement new policies for the advancement of women has attracted much attention. Indeed, it is quite remarkable that of all things it is a conservative LDP-Prime Minister taking the lead in promoting such issues. Yet research shows that even ambitious gender equality policies in Japan have had little outcome so far. In an international comparison, Japan ranks as low as 101 out of 145 countries, according to the *Global Gender Gap Report 2015*.

Two experts discussed the facts behind Abe’s policies for the advancement of women in society. Haniwa Natori, former director of the Cabinet Office Gender Equality Bureau and current president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s

Clubs of Japan (BPW), contextualized Abe’s agenda within the larger framework of gender equality policies since the mid-1990s. Whereas Yuki Tsuji (Tokai University) contributed the academic perspective by discussing the motives and reasons for the LDP taking up the issue. The “gender turn” of the LDP started during its term as opposition. Tsuji argues that Abe’s adoption of policy proposals for the advancement of women was a strategic move related to his candidacy for the party’s presidential election of 2012. After becoming prime minister, the program for the advancement of women became one part of “Abenomics,” the policy package to revitalize the Japanese economy. Nevertheless, Tsuji also pointed out that Abe aims at improving his support rate among female voters and to make up losses due to critically viewed issues of his agenda such as the constitutional revision.



► Yuki Tsuji (left), Haniwa Natori (right).

## How sustainable, local and democratic is Japan’s “energy transition”?

**In many industrialized countries, renewable energies (RE) are promoted as a measure against climate change as well as for more subsistence and energy security. Besides those ecologic and economic advantages, proponents of RE stress that, because production and distribution is decentralized, alternative energies are more democratic and closer to the citizens than fossil fuels and nuclear power, which require huge centralized utilities.**

In Japan as well, there are programs to promote RE, such as guaranteed feed-in-tariffs (FIT). But only with the third step of the electricity market reform, planned for 2020, will production and distribution be unbundled and a competitive market enabled. However, already today, numerous local communities are moving into the production of RE. Here they see a chance for an autonomous energy supply and potential for new businesses and economic recovery. Besides solar and wind power,

biomass will play a significant role. Developments in Germany, and especially municipal utilities, are observantly being studied by the Japanese side.

Within the framework of this research project, communities engaged in RE initiatives will be selected, and contacts and networks established in order to gain detailed information about both the communities’ circumstances and their success in installing RE capacity. The findings will then be analysed and compared in order to define common features that could determine the success or failure of local initiatives. Of special interest is the question whether democratic structures and processes are conducive to a successful local implementation of RE.

The theoretical framework is provided by policy analysis and forms of capital theory. Quantitative economic data is to be supplemented with qualitative textual analysis and local case studies.

◀ **Dr. Phoebe Stella Holdgrün**, political scientist and deputy director of the DIJ, is currently working on the project “Contested gender equality policies in Japan”. [holdgruen@diptokyo.org](mailto:holdgruen@diptokyo.org)

◀ **Dr. Daniel Kremers** joined the DIJ as a senior research fellow in July 2015. His research focuses on the role of civil society and local communities in the promotion of renewable energies. He also holds an interest in temporary labour migration to Japan. [kremers@diptokyo.org](mailto:kremers@diptokyo.org)

## Recent publications

### Contemporary Japan 27(2)

Issue editors: Phoebe Stella Holdgrün and Torsten Weber.



### Contemporary Japan 28(1)

*Ethnographies of Hope in Contemporary Japan.*

Issue editor: Iza Kavedžija.

Content:

Iza Kavedžija:  
"Introduction: reorienting hopes"

Jason Danely:  
"Hope in an ageing Japan: transience and transcendence"

Brett Hack:  
"Subculture as social knowledge: a hopeful reading of otaku culture"

Scott North and Rika Morioka:  
"Hope found in lives lost: karoshi and the pursuit of worker rights in Japan"

Ieva Puzo:  
"Hope amidst uncertainty: foreign scientists in contemporary Japan"

Stephen Robertson:  
"Hope that sustains: revisiting New Year's divination at Suwa Taisha"

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## Read for you

PARK Yuha (2014): *Teikoku no ianfu: shokuminchi shihai to kioku no tatakai* [Comfort women of the empire: the battle over colonial rule and memory]. Tokyo: Asahi Shimbun Shuppan, 336 pages, 2,268 yen (ISBN 978-4-0225-1173-7).

Last December, the Korean and Japanese governments agreed to solve the so-called comfort women controversy, which has been damaging relations between both countries and their peoples for decades. However, as neither Korean victims nor the Japanese Right were satisfied with the agreement, the controversy continues.

The Korean historian Yuha Park, a professor at Sejong University (Seoul), focuses on the particularly sensitive point of the cooperation and collaboration of Koreans in the "comfort women" system during the 1930s and 1940s, as well as the disregard for the victims in Korea after 1945. To this end, she studies the topic not in the context of war but of hegemonic structures ("empire"). In three chapters on the historical system and eleven chapters on historical memory – covering the immediate post-war era until today – Park shows that the "comfort women" have never been a homogeneous group, neither as victims of sexual and economic exploitation during the colonial period, nor as instruments of history politics since the 1990s.

Park's book, for which she was indicted in Korea for the assumed defamation of the victims, argues for the need to pay attention to "diverging voices" (*chigau koe*) in our interpretation of the past. It enriches scholarship and the public debate by adding important, hitherto marginalized facets of a sad but common pattern of human behaviour. *T.W.*

## Catchword

「日本死ね!」 (*Nihon shine!*)

In mid-February, a blog post complaining about the lack of day care centres caused a nationwide outrage. Bearing the provocative title "My child didn't get a slot in day care. Go to hell, Japan!" (*Hoikuen ochita, Nihon shine!*), the short post of about 500 characters was published on Hatena's popular anonymous diary. Through her choice of strong words and abusive language, the outraged mother gives new urgency to the long lingering problem of the lack of day care centres.

After going viral on social media, the blog post quickly made its way into major magazines, TV shows and eventually the National Diet, where Shiori Yamao (MP of the DPJ) confronted Prime Minister Abe with the blog post in a session of the lower house. Abe's attempt to downplay the issue by doubting the authenticity of the blog post eventually backfired on him, when members of the public gathered near the National Diet (Parliament) building on March 5 to show their solidarity with the anonymous mother and blog writer. *T.T.*

## Staff news

Sven Eichelberg joined the DIJ in December 2015 as a library staff member and public relations consultant. He majored in Japanese Studies at the universities of Düsseldorf and Trier, as well as at the Faculty of Liberal Arts at Tōhoku Gakuin University in Sendai. Prior to that, he worked as a Japan correspondent for a German print magazine and later as a PR and Social Media Manager for an IT services company. *D.K.*

Picture credits: Page 1 {poster} Daniel Kremers. Page 2 {Joachim Radkau} Claus Harmer, {Hitoshi Yoshioka} Claus Harmer. Page 3 {Yuki Tsuji & Haniwa Natori} Claus Harmer.  
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