

"Ewig Limited"

Eight Years at the DIJ

by Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner

On my way to work, just after passing the ticket gate in the Ichigaya subway station, an advertising billboard with the words "Ewig Limited" catches my eye. The katakana transliteration of the company's name leaves no room for doubt: the first word "Ewig" (forever) is to be pronounced in German. Thus, for me, this slogan has become a daily reminder about my task in Tōkyō, and when I walk past I say to myself: Strive for the DIJ as if it were forever. But don't forget, your time there is limited.

Indeed, the past eight years – a designated five-year term in office plus an extension of a further three years – have flown. Now the time has come to look back and review my incumbency. Much of what I will list below is self-

explanatory. Yet it may help some to understand, who have every right to ask, what exactly the director did during her period in office. Let's start at the beginning, i.e., my intention, as declared in a report on the first four months of my term in Bulletin no. 17 in spring 1997, to make the DIJ, which finally had all positions filled and was running at full capacity in 1996, more "visible," more "open," and to create "networks."

"Make Visible," "Open Up," and Create "Networks"

The task was to give the DIJ, which was often mistaken for the Goethe Institute or other organizations located in Japan, a unified and unmistakable identity. It

all began by renaming the institute to its current name, DIJ, and by inaugurating or redesigning the institute's publications and brochures that were to highlight its "corporate identity" through the ginkgo leaf and a new layout. We then established a homepage and created a newsletter, which became available both in printed form and electronically from June 1997 onward. Both versions provide information about current projects and seek to appeal to a wider audience with a title story, conference reports, and book reviews. In addition, the DIJ's Christmas cards draw attention to various aspects of the institute's activities, for example, the project for a

comprehensive Japanese-German dictionary, the library, or our redesigned website.

The establishment of the series of lectures "DIJ Forum" assisted in "opening up" the DIJ. Since 1997, a total of 52 lecture events have been held that have included very well known speakers and have attracted a diverse international audience from the fields of science and academia, the economy, diplomacy, and culture. In the same year of 1997, the History Study Group was established, a forum not only for young academics and scientists from around the globe, but also a platform where established researchers can discuss their projects. This first Study Group was shortly followed by others, namely the Social Science and the Humanities Study Group for academic and doctoral candidates from the fields of literature, theater and cultural studies, as well as history of ideas and fine arts. From the year 2001 the Business and Economics Study Group also meet at regular intervals so that each month speakers and listeners drawn from a wide spectrum of Japan studies meet in four parallel fora (the Humanities and the History Study Groups have in the meantime been amalgamated).

From a linguistic perspective, "opening up" the DIJ has meant that the use of English, as the *lingua franca* of today's academe, has increased and that Japanese has become more important. When we host conferences and



Eight busy years at the DIJ have flown by. Irmela Hijiya-Kirschner giving her farewell lecture on „Beauty and National Identity“ at Suntory Hall.

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workshops it depends on the topic and practical considerations as to whether, in addition to the language of the host country, the second working language should be German or English. In general, however, English is used more frequently in our events and publications, whereby the DIJ is following a general trend in non-Anglophone countries. Nevertheless, we do take seriously our duty of nurturing German as a language of science. Expanding our Japanese-language publications would indeed be desirable, but due to a lack of capacities, our possibilities in this respect are very limited.

Our "opening up" also has a virtual aspect. The DIJ library catalog can now be accessed via the Internet in three languages. The homepage, already praised by international specialist associations as "especially useful" in its former state, provides links to full-text versions of DIJ publications, e.g., articles from the DIJ yearbook *Japanstudien* which are downloaded most frequently, but also working papers, a comprehensive bibliography, and individual monographs. We are currently digitizing the Bandō Collection, a collection of primary sources documenting the life of German prisoners of war in Japan during World War I – a DIJ contribution to the upcoming year "Germany in Japan." The web-version will allow researchers to work with the material more intensively and independent of location.

All of these activities are connected to an expansion of the Institute's network. This expansion does not only entail signing cooperation agreements with institutions in Germany, Japan, and on the European level. With each passing year our network also grows with the number of contacts to which the DIJ is linked with *in situ* as well as internationally. This corresponds to greater visibility and thus one of the tasks formulated in our Mission Statement, i.e., to conduct research in the host country and to foster the mediation of German, Japanese and international research, a task that reflects the special significance of an institution located abroad. Indeed, our cooperation partners of events and the coeditors and authors of our publications are ample proof of the wealth and diversity of our contacts.

What Does "Multidisciplinary" Mean?

One of the special characteristics of the DIJ that differentiates it from its (generally monodisciplinary) sister institutions gathered under the roof of the Stiftung Deutsche Geisteswissen-

schaftliche Institute im Ausland is its three disciplinary "pillars," complemented by the field of Japanese-German relations. These "pillars" are in themselves quite diverse. Take, for example, the humanities section where we currently conduct research in history, linguistics, religious studies and gender studies; the social sciences section presently covers political science as well as research on the social system. The economics section is no less broad in its disciplinary range. Yet it would amount to wasting a valuable opportunity if we abstained from linking these fields of study. Links are fostered in the form of departmental projects of various lengths and above all through "Japan in Asia," our focal area of study that was introduced in 1997. Within the framework of this interdisciplinary research program, 21 conferences and workshops were held, 17 larger publications in German, English, and Japanese produced, and numerous articles and reports published. The spectrum of topics covered in this framework ranges from Japan's new role in Asia to its immigration policies, Japanese-Korean relations, economic relations between Japan and China, as well as a series of conferences held under the title "Assertions of Cultural Uniqueness in Asia." Comparative studies – e.g., about youth in Japan and Germany, gender as a media construction in both countries, the activities of multinational companies from Japan and Europe in Southeast Asia after the crisis, or aging and welfare policies in Germany and Japan – are another focal point of our activities and are not in any way limited to a bilateral perspective.

On the initiative of the director, a loose series of conferences addressed meta-topics that are essential for an institute such as the DIJ. They included Japan in a paradigmatic perspective, as a case study in various disciplines, issues related to Japanese-German-Japanese translation or, on another level, the topic of the power of language and the powerlessness of the speaker in a conference about Japanese and German as languages of science. A dialogue between Japanese and Western art historians and imagologists was initiated by a Japanese-European conference on skin and surfaces.

All of these and several other ventures are documented in the publications of the DIJ, in our yearbook *Japanstudien*, our series of monographs, the *Miscellanea*, a series titled *Japan and Europe: Historical Relations and Comparative Studies* established in 2001, and in the *Working Papers*. The Institute has

from the start enjoyed an excellent working relationship with its house publisher Iudicium in Munich. With the intention of addressing a wider audience with special topics we have additionally published books with other publishing houses.

Small Giant Tortoises

Within the realm of science there are certain projects that require great patience, projects that reveal their charm rather hesitatingly, yet remain indispensable. These include dictionaries, critical editions, and bibliographies, whose only chance for completion is under the protection of a far-sighted academic institution. A president of a German academy recently drew an analogy to giant tortoises. At least small breeds of this species are to be found in the series of bibliographical works published by the DIJ which includes, amongst others, annotated bibliographies of dictionaries and glossaries, cultural relations between Japan and the West, special collections in Japanese libraries, and, shortly, Germans in Japan. In addition, a rather exemplary breed is developing in the form of the *Comprehensive Japanese-German Dictionary* that was begun in 1998 with funding from German and Japanese sponsors. With more than 110,000 entries, whose initial compilation was completed in December 2003, this work shall not only become the most comprehensive bilingual dictionary that has ever existed for Japanese but it shall also contain the most up-to-date, wide-reaching and best documented vocabulary. Who says that an academic institute cannot also serve practical purposes?

An institute such as the DIJ should thus strive for both: to seek close contact with native research and to identify and implement Japanese and international projects that are especially promising from a European perspective. It should be flexible enough to dedicate its energies to covering current topics when the need arises. At the same time, however, with its establishment, the Institute has the duty to take on the academic key tasks of documenting and producing aids for research on topics that are "beyond boom or crisis," as stated at the tenth anniversary of the DIJ, which cannot be undertaken elsewhere. Only by conducting both research on key topics and current issues *and* the breeding of selected species of small giant tortoises can the DIJ do justice to its stated mission of promoting Japan studies in a sustained manner.



Charts and lists of all types of favorites are perhaps more popular in Japan than anywhere else. *Monozukushi*, the creation of lists as a paradigmatic rhetorical figure in classical Japanese, remains a common pattern even today. As a student of literature I prefer to draw inspiration in this regard from the works of Sei Shōnagon, the famous lady of the court and writer of the tenth to eleventh century, and thus I would like to conclude with this list:

What disappoints: We were unable to publish all that we had planned. The DIJ, despite an intensive one-year search for new premises, is still not located in an office suitable for our requirements. What satisfies: The DIJ was given a highly positive evaluation by the German Wissenschaftsrat (an advisory body whose function is to draw up recommendations on higher education, science, and research) in 1999. An award for German-Japanese translation was eventually established in the year 1998. What delights: Quite a few grantees of the DIJ Ph.D. scholarship program presented remarkable dissertations, some of which were published in our monograph series. Seven former members of our academic staff as well as four of the grantees are now professors. What is desirable: That the DIJ will hold its ground among academic institutions abroad through its very specific profile. And as a personal wish, let me quote yet another inscription I encountered in my daily life in Tōkyō, this time taken from the name of a boutique in Omote Sandō: DFW – “Don’t forget woman.”

Farewell to Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnerreit, Welcome to Florian Coulmas

Celebration on July 1, 2004, at Suntory Hall, Tōkyō

Celebrations commenced with the festive music of a great artist who in his time also bridged cultures and had an impact that extended far beyond his own country. George Frideric Handel’s “Chaconne in G-Major with 21 Variations” welcomed the approximate 300 guests from science and academe, the economy, politics, and society who gathered in the Small Hall at Suntory Hall on the late afternoon of July 1 to bid farewell to the outgoing director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Irmela Hijiya-Kirschnerreit, whose term of office was due to come to an end on September 30, as well as welcome the new director, Florian Coulmas. René Haak, deputy director of the DIJ, mastered the ceremonies. The piano music was contributed by Matthias Kirschnerreit, Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit’s younger brother and a professor at the Rostock Academy of Music.

Wolfgang Schieder, chair of the Foundation Council of the Stiftung Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland (D.G.I.A.), welcomed the festive community. Mr. Schieder praised the specific goal of the DIJ within the framework of the Foundation: to contribute to mutual understanding through furthering knowledge of the culture, economy and society of contemporary Japan as well

as Germany-Japan relations. This goal has been fulfilled beyond all expectations by the outstanding work of the DIJ over the past eight years under the leadership of Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit.

In a warm and personal address, the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan, Henrik Schmiegelow, stated his great admiration for the remarkable contributions and academic successes that Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit achieved in her years as director of the DIJ. Ogoura Kazuo, president of the Japan Foundation and former Japanese ambassador to Korea and France, stressed in his address the solid cooperation between the Japan Foundation and the DIJ in the fields of economics, social sciences, and in the arts. He expressed his wish that cooperative efforts in selective projects may continue in the future.

Uwe Bake, head of the Central Department of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, underlined the importance of German research abroad. He stated that these undertakings shall continue to receive necessary support from his Ministry in order to ensure that German leading-edge research will be continued in Japan. Mr. Nagano Hiroshi, director of the National Institute of Science & Technology Policy of the Japanese Ministry for Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology, elaborated in his address on the enormous importance of German research in deepening and further developing German-Japanese academic and scientific relations.

The musical piece “La fille aux cheveux de lin” from the *Préludes*, Livre 1 by Claude Debussy concluded the



Speakers and distinguished guests at the Suntory Hall celebration.





"We are here because Tōkyō is a world city." Florian Coulmas, the new director of the DIJ, at Suntory Hall.

round of welcoming addresses. Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit, who will return to her chair as professor of Japanese (literary and cultural studies) at the Freie Universität Berlin for the winter semester 2004/2005, chose the topic "Beauty and National Identity" as the title for her farewell lecture. And, indeed, the first sentence of her address led the guests directly into the heart of the topic, allowing at the same time a fleeting glimpse into Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit's own motives for choosing Japan as her vocation: "The idea of 'Japan the Beautiful' remains deeply ingrained in our minds, both Japanese and Western. For many Japanologists, including myself, 'beautiful Japan' was a crucial motif for their decision to turn their professional interest to this country and its culture." "Beauty and Japan" is indeed an inexhaustible topic, especially since it is of equal interest to both Japanese and non-Japanese. "But why would this be so?" was the central question asked by Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit. The combination of beauty and spirituality represents the essence of what is Japanese. "In Japan beauty creates a solid, deeply ingrained association." According to Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit, the notion of beauty refers here not only to apparently sensory qualities but to moral aspects or values as well. This applies to both the "insider" and "outsider" perspectives in discourses on Ja-

pan. Thus, a journey to Kyōto is "more than mere tourism – it is a Proustian search for a lost time and a forgotten identity." In her farewell speech Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit gave an impressive and lively account of the fundamental place of the idea of "Japan the Beautiful" not only in twentieth-century Japan's self-understanding but also in perceptions of Japan from abroad, and outlined their role in the twenty-first century "as an element of cultural self-assertion in an age of globalization." Professor Hijiya-Kirschnerreit closed by thanking all involved researchers, research institutes, ministries, and foundations for their co-

operation, support, and friendly assistance during her incumbency as Director of the DIJ.

Professor Florian Coulmas, her successor as director of the DIJ, opened his lecture "A World City in the Making" with the question: "Why, ladies and gentlemen, why are we here today?" To which he immediately replied: "The answer is easy, or at least one of the answers: we are here because Tōkyō is a world city." Among the global cities Tōkyō occupies a special place. It is the only cosmopolitan capital that is not a commercial or financial center of a nuclear power. The politico-military weakness of Japan after World War II did not hinder Tōkyō from becoming a global city. Tōkyō is different in social and above all demographic aspects as well: "It remains the only non-Caucasian dominated world city," according to Coulmas, and thus the only global city that is not dominated by a Western language. As a result cosmopolitan Tōkyō and the Japanese language "remind the world that modernity and globality are not only possible draped in the robes of European languages." Moreover, "Tōkyō plays witness to the fact that globalization is not an exclusively Western affair. The impulses that it emits are well worth experiencing first hand." The celebrations closed, as they had begun, with music: the ceremony and its participants were bid farewell to the sounds of Alberto Ginastera.

For everything there is a time

When Florian Coulmas retired from the Faculty of Policy Studies at Chūō University in 1999, he began to realize that aging did not pass him by. Late as this insight dawned upon him, he took it seriously, turning his attention to time as an object of research. Considering its various meanings, such as duration, epoch, history, progress and decay, tense, tempo, and age, among others, and looking at it from various angles, he found that time is one of the most consequential cultural variables. Many, if not all, differences between cultures can be explained in terms of how much time people devote to all sorts of activities, what rhythms are meaningful in their lives, how they conceive of their own existence within the course of time, and of time itself. So important is the temporal order of life – how much time for school and play, talk and silence, work and rest, worship and penance, lovemaking and feasting – that a sub-field of cultural studies, chronoethnology, must be charged with its investigation. As an initial result of these considerations, Coulmas published a book, entitled *Japanische Zeiten: Eine Ethnographie der Vergänglichkeit* [Japanese Times: An Ethnography of Impermanence], in which he explores the cultural meaning of time in Japan.

From here it was a short step to the realization that, for human beings, the most important measure of time is the length of a lifetime. Since over the past century the average life expectancy of the Japanese has almost doubled, it follows that major changes in all domains of life have occurred, and will continue to occur, many of which are yet unexplored. Traditionally old age is venerated in Japan, but in our day the democratization of longevity turns into a major challenge that far extends the research domain of demography. During his time at the DIJ, Coulmas plans to devote himself to the study of these challenges.

Before he moved to the DIJ, Coulmas was director of the Institute of East Asian Studies and chair of Japanese studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen. He has taught and held research positions at various institutions in Japan, Germany, and the United States. He is a trained linguist and has published widely in sociolinguistics, writing systems and Japanese studies. He is coeditor of the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*.



German-Japanese Symposium and Press Conference

Dementia – Current Issues in Long-Term Care, Medical Care and Legal Support

(Tōkyō, June 4, 2004)

Since both Germany and Japan have rapidly aging societies, the number of people with dementia is constantly increasing. This development challenges not only long-term care and health care systems, but also the legal system, e.g., the legal guardianship system. This German-Japanese symposium was jointly organized by Harald Conrad (DIJ) and Arai Makoto (Tsukuba University), together with Eisai Inc. and Pfizer Inc., with the support of the German Embassy and the Japanese Society for Legal Guardianship Law. Its purpose was to compare the current state of the care and legal systems for dementia patients, and to discuss current and possible future changes.

More than a hundred journalists attended the opening press conference, which dealt mainly with current problems in the care of dementia patients in the Japanese long-term care insurance system, and the legal guardianship system. The second part of the day concentrated on a German-Japanese comparison of the care systems for dementia patients. It turned out that new care concepts currently being tested are in fact quite similar in both countries.

The symposium was the starting point for a bigger joint German-Japanese research project on dementia. Future symposia are planned for the years 2005 and 2006, which will be part of the “Germany in Japan” year 2005/2006. For more information please contact Harald Conrad (conrad@dijtokyo.org).

International Symposium

Gender and Nation – Historical Perspectives on Japan

(Tōkyō, June 10–12, 2004)

In cooperation with Hiroshima City University, and funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation (Germany), the DIJ organized an international symposium on “Gender and Nation” from



At the press conference on problems in the care of dementia patients.

June 10 through 12, 2004. With 28 speakers altogether, over 370 guests and participants, and lasting over three consecutive days, this academic conference was one of the largest ever held by the DIJ. It was conceptionalized and organized by Andrea Germer (DIJ), in cooperation with Ulrike Wöhr (Hiroshima City University). The conference venue was at Tōkyō Women's Plaza in Omote Sandō, where the German Embassy also held a reception for the participants.

The international symposium brought together scholars from the fields of history, the social sciences and gender studies, from Japan and abroad, to rethink and discuss fundamental theoretical questions of gender and nation in Japan from the late nineteenth century onward. As Irmela Hijiya-Kirschereit (DIJ) pointed out in her opening speech, this symposium was, in many respects, closely linked to another very well attended DIJ conference which took place in April 2000 (cf. DIJ Newsletter no. 10). Organized by the then research fellow Nicola Liscutin, its theme was “Contested Historiography: Feminist Perspectives on WW II.” That conference took a com-

parative approach, mainly between Japan and Germany. It focused on different feminist historiographies of women's victimization and/or agency during the Asia-Pacific War and World War II, and on what, in Germany, is called *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (coming to terms with the past) and, in Japan, is problematized as *sensō sekinin* (responsibility for the war). In a sense, the symposium in June 2004 continued the discussions opened up four years ago: When talking about the nation-state and processes of nation-building, questions of war, colonialism, and ethnicity, as well as agency and victimization, will always be central issues that need to be examined. Yet compared to the conference in 2000, the scope of the symposium in 2004 was expanded considerably in historical as well as theoretical terms.

Much international research has been published on concepts of nation and nationalism in general, as well as with regard to the histories of particular countries like Japan. In much of this research, “nation” is seen as a product of purely male politics and imagination. Feminist scholarship of the past decade has, with its perspective on



Iijima Aiko and the organizers of the symposium on “Gender and Nation.”



gender, revealed basic social, ideological and structural preconditions of nation-building processes. It became clear that men and women are integrated in gendered and ambivalent ways into the project of nation-building. They are attributed certain roles, of which the soldier and the mother are the most extremely gendered variations. Gendered ways of integrating women and men into the process of nation building differ over time and from nation to nation. Nevertheless, the common basis for this integration is the mobilization of the minds and sentiments of the people in order to realize the national project.

The keynote address of the symposium was held by Iijima Aiko, a key figure in the women's movement of the late 1960s and 1970s, both as a feminist theorist and as the initiator and Secretary of the Shinryaku=Sabetsu o Takakau Ajia Fujin Kaigi (Asian Women's Conference – Fighting Invasion=Discrimination). In her very personal account, Iijima connected her private and spiritual journey through life to her political activities and her theories on women's liberation. Iijima is known as one of the first feminist thinkers who focused on the intrinsic connection between different forms of discrimination, with regard to gender, ethnicity and class, i.e. the connection of national politics and gender.

The first two of the seven panels dealt with the issue of nation-building. This reflected the importance of gender in the construction of modern Japan during the Meiji era, as well as the recognition that the gender system that was established at that time has influenced the history and the society of modern Japan up to the present. Presenters and commentators were Sidonia Blättler (Freie Universität Berlin), Mae Michiko (University of Düsseldorf), Ueno Chizuko (University of Tōkyō), Hayakawa Noriyo (Yokohama City University), Jason Karlin (University of Tōkyō) and Sally Ann Hastings (Purdue University). The only presentation not directly dealing with Japan, but with modern Western-European philosophy, was that of Sidonia Blättler. It contributed to the discussion which followed by providing an internationally comparative and theoretical perspective on the conceptualization of gender and nation.

That nation-building must be seen as an ongoing process became clear in the following five panels which illustrated the various roles gender played, and continues to play, in this formative process. Yet it also became clear that it is in no way possible to comprehend and deal with gender in an isolated



Over 370 guests and participants attended the symposium on "Gender and Nation."

way. Gender always needs to be investigated within a cluster of other factors and within other forms of differentiations and discriminations. These often overlap and seemingly contradict each other, yet they constitute the diverse and specific patterns of power relations.

In the panel on "Gender, Citizenship, and Everyday Life," Koyama Shizuko (University of Kyōto), Nishikawa Yūko (Kyōto Bunkyo University), Barbara Hamill Satō (Seikei University), Vera Mackie (Curtin University of Technology, Australia), and Ilse Lenz (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) discussed the seemingly gender-neutral concepts and understandings of citizenship, everyday life and the body from the Meiji era until the end of the twentieth century. A major question that connected this wide time span was how the seemingly private sphere and the body were, and still are, administered by the nation state. Apart from women's ideological relegation to the private sphere, the great contribution of women workers, from the time when Japan began to industrialize and enter the world market, has often been remarked upon. In the panel on "Gender and Work," Himeoka Toshiko (Ritsumeikan University), Regine Mathias (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) and Miyake Yoshiko (Yamaguchi Prefectural University) looked at how changing patterns in paid labor affected men and women differently, and at the crucial ways in which these gender-specifics shaped the national economy. The panel on "Gender and Wartime Organizations" explored the making of the male soldier as well as the creation of the female home front. Sabine Frühstück (University of California) and Sandra Wilson (Murdoch

University, Australia) put primary emphasis in their presentations not so much on questions of guilt and individual responsibility, but on the diverse and at times contradictory representations of gender in the structuring of wartime organizations. Kanō Mikiyo (Keiwa College), on the other hand, emphasized the dichotomous political and military structure of the male battlefield and the female homefront. That gender plays a crucial role both in questions of and in the practice of ethnic exclusion and differentiation was shown by the discussions of the following panel on "Gender, Ethnicity, and Colonialism," with presentations by Kojima Kyōko (Waseda University and Shōwa University), Tanaka Yuki (Hiroshima Peace Institute), Fujime Yuki (Ōsaka University of Foreign Studies), and Yamashita Yeong-ae (Ritsumeikan University). The presentations were on seemingly divergent subjects, namely the Ainu, the so-called "comfort women," and the Japanese-American military alliance of the postwar era. However, all of these dealt with the nation-state as a construct that attributes rights to some and forecloses them to others. It became clear that gender, as well as sexuality, often become tools for justifying ethnic or colonialist differentiation, and racist and colonialist violence. In the last panel on "Gender and Sexuality," Susan Burns (University of Chicago; her paper was read by Sally Hastings), Ogino Miho (University of Ōsaka), and Ehara Yumiko (Tōkyō Metropolitan University) explored, more specifically, how the purportedly natural realm of sexuality was administered and shaped by state policies. The legal and juridical definition of sexuality and of what constituted sex-

ual crime in the Meiji era (Burns), and equally, birth control and family planning in the postwar era (Ogino), emerged as important formative elements in the construction of the nation-state.

What ignited the most lively discussions in the course of the symposium and was most emotive, was the question of men's and women's – in particular women's – roles in war, specifically their involvement in the Asia-Pacific War. This is not surprising when we think of the discussions that evolved in Japan since the Iraq war began in 2003, and the later dispatch of the SDF to Iraq. Moreover, the photos from the prison of Abu Ghraib, which depicted U.S.-American women as sexual torturers of Iraqi men and in May 2004 shocked audiences around the world, made the involvement of women in war an urgent issue. The photos pinpointed the fact that gender and ethnicity, are at times overlapping, reinforcing or contradictory categories that form essential elements in the contingent matrix of social and international dominance. The international symposium on gender and nation in Japan certainly helped generate greater understanding of this matrix historically and theoretically with regard to modern Japanese history.

The symposium had simultaneous interpretation (Japanese and English). The publication of a collection of the presentations in English is scheduled for 2005.

International Symposium

Takeuchi Yoshimi – Thinker of a Different Modernity in East Asia?
(Heidelberg, September 6–10, 2004)

The lifework of Takeuchi Yoshimi (1910–1977), Sinologist and literature and culture critic, was the topic of an international symposium which the DIJ hosted, together with the Seminar for Japanese Studies at the University of Heidelberg, from September 6 to 10, 2004, in Heidelberg. Takeuchi is today considered one of the most important Japanese postwar intellectuals, and his works have been receiving increasing attention in recent years. The conference proposed an analysis of Takeuchi's work from different angles, with Takeuchi's writings as a literature critic and translator, as a historian, and as a philosopher being the central focus.

On the first day, papers given by Richard Calichman (University of New



The symposium in Heidelberg proposed an analysis of Takeuchi Yoshimi's work from different angles.

York) and Mishima Ken'ichi (Tōkyō Keizai University) focused on Takeuchi's work as philosophical writings, and the question came up as to whether Takeuchi should be considered a philosopher – he himself denied this. The papers of Okayama Asako (JSPS research fellow) and Wolfgang Seifert (Universität Heidelberg) dealt with Takeuchi as a literary critic, his views of an "East" vs. "West" dichotomy, his views of "Asia" and "Europe," and his role as a critic of modernity and modernism. In the discussion, it was the non-Japanese participants in particular who stressed Takeuchi's warnings of Eurocentrism and orientalist structures of thought, and this topic seemed to be where the reasons behind the recent renaissance of Takeuchi's writings are to be found.

The papers on the second day, given by Sven Saaler (DIJ) and Lee Gyeong-Seog (CEO, Waseda University), dealt with the influence of Takeuchi's work on Japanese historiography, particularly his contribution to the discussion concerning Japanese Pan-Asianism. On the third day, papers given by Sun Ge (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing), Christian Uhl (Universiteit Leiden) and Kagami Mitsuyuki (Aichi University) analyzed Takeuchi's contributions as a translator and literature critic, particularly his contribution to the discussion on "people's literature" (*kokumin bungaku*), but also his studies in the field of sinology. The paper of Marukawa Tetsushi (Meiji University) shed some light on the topic of "Takeuchi and His Idea of Antagonism." On the last day of the conference, the pre-

sentations of Yoshida Masatoshi (Hōsei University) and Matsumoto Ken'ichi (Reitaku University) gave more insights into Takeuchi's discussion of modernity and of Japan's role between "West" and "East," and into the legacy of his writings on Asianism. In the discussion which followed, the points raised in the papers were debated vigorously, particularly the question of an Asian regionalism and the tension between nationalism and regionalism in contemporary East Asia. All participants considered Takeuchi's writings on Asianism and on China to be of utmost importance for an understanding of these issues.

DIJ PUBLICATIONS

Matthias Koch: *Universitäre Sammlungen in Japan: Eine deutsch-japanische annotierte Bibliographie* 日本の大学所蔵特殊文献 解題目録:ドイツ語・日本語併記 [Special Collections in Japanese University Libraries: A German-Japanese Annotated Bibliography] (Bibliographische Arbeiten aus dem Deutschen Institut für Japanstudien, vol. 8). Munich: Iudicium, 2004, in preparation (ISBN 3-89129-400-X)

With this bilingual bibliography, the DIJ presents a long-awaited and much needed basic reference work, a true desideratum even from the Japanese perspective. It is based on a survey of 627 university central libraries in Japan and contains annotations in German



and Japanese on 734 special collections in 142 university libraries, covering more than forty disciplines. The sources in the special collections date from the Heian period to the present time and comprise a great variety of subjects in the humanities and in the social and natural sciences. The Japanese annotations were written in cooperation with Suguri Masako. Thanks to Claus D. Harmer, the bibliography can also be accessed via the Internet at <http://tkososa.dijtokyo.org>.

A user of this bibliography might sometimes wonder how some of the special collections made their way to Japan. The private libraries of the legal scholars Andreas von Tuhr, Julius Hatschek and Friedrich Thaner, for example, belong to the reparation objects Japan received from Germany after the end of World War I. A remarkable number of former Japanese owners of special collections from the second half of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century were pioneers in their fields of learning and spent several years abroad, many of them in Germany. After their return, they frequently came to hold the first university chair of their respective disciplines at one of the new Imperial Universities (Teikoku Daigaku) and were the founders of the first scholarly associations of their respective fields, e.g., Fukuda Tokuzō (economic history), Onozuka Kiheiji (political science), Shimazono Junjirō (medicine), and Kōmoto Jūjirō (ophthalmology). In this respect, the annotated bibliography is also a documentation of German-Japanese (academic) relations. It is hoped that this work, whether as a printed book or an electronic database, will stimulate scholarly research, especially research in and on Japan.

It would be desirable that the wealth of information contained in this publication be made available to English-speaking users. Anyone interested in undertaking a translation of this bibliography into English please contact the author (koch@dijtokyo.org).

OTHER MATTERS/ OUTLOOK

Personnel News

Since April 2004, Dr. Harald Dolles has been the only DIJ staff-council representative.

Contrary to what was reported in Newsletter no. 21 (February 2004), Dr. René Haak will remain manager of the Economics Section of the DIJ until August 31, 2005.

Dissertation Fellows

Sybille Höhe, Japanese studies, media science, study of religions, Ph.D. candidate at the Philipps-Universität of Marburg: "Religious Influences on Japanese Politics regarding the Present Educational Reform" (June 2004 – November 2004).

Peter Backhaus, linguistics, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Duisburg-Essen: "Multilingualism in Tokyo – Reading the Signs" (August 2004 – February 2005).

André Hertrich, history, Japanese studies, Ph.D. candidate at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich: "Japanese Rearmament between Continuity and Discontinuity: The *Jieitai* and the Imperial Army's 'Heritage'" (September 2004 – August 2005).

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