



Begrüßungsrede

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kleiner

**zum Japanese-German Symposium
„Japan-German Science Cooperation:
Past – Present – Future“**

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Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Your Excellency, dear Ambassador Shinyo,
Dear Professor Kobayashi, (dear Mr. Hisashi Kato, dear Mr. Kodaira,)
Dear Professor Menkhaus,

Dear distinguished guests,
Dear Japanese and German friends,

On behalf of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) I am very delighted to welcome you to our Japanese-German joint event here in the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities!

More than two months after the big earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11 the whole extent and effects of the natural disaster still leave us speechless and are not yet completely measurable. The DFG and I would like to express our deep condolences to our friends and partners in Japan. Please be assured that we are ready to help in any way we can, wherever it is needed.

The aftermath of the natural disaster in Japan and its effects underline that international cooperation is more important than ever. Between Japan and Germany there is an extensive history of exchange and cooperation in science and research, also visible through today's symposium which is celebrated under the motto of the 150 years of Japan-German friendship. (As Ambassador Shinyo already explained:) About 150 years ago, in 1860, a Prussian expedition to East Asia led by Count Eulenburg visited Edo, now Tokyo. In January 1861, a treaty of amity and commerce was arranged, which became the foundation of the subsequent close relationship between Germany and Japan.

Perhaps less well known is that the mission also formed one of the best equipped scientific expeditions of that time. A large number of artists, photographers and scientists were members of the mission and a rich portfolio of documentation was the result, which just came back to the surface recently. The British historian Sebastian Dobson and Tokyo-based German historian Sven Saaler are currently completing a

book on the artistic legacy of the Prussian Expedition which will be published in autumn this year.¹

For example from the chapter about scientists and artists we learn that the predecessor of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities played a major role in selecting the scientists for the expedition. During the winter of 1859, candidates were invited, out of whom four scientists finally were selected to represent three main branches of natural science: botany, zoology and geology.

Botany was assigned to Max Ernst Wichura, a lawyer by profession who combined his duties with extensive research into hybridisation. Zoology was represented by Eduard von Martens, curator at the Zoological Museum; his special interest was mollusks. Geology was the responsibility of Ferdinand Freiherr von Richthofen, who was just completing a four-year stint with the Austrian Geological Survey which had taken him as far as Transylvania.

At the time of the Eulenburg expedition the Japanese government was still reluctant towards foreigners – Japan's 200 years of isolation just ended shortly before the Prussian expedition arrived. Thus we can read in the book of Dobson and Saaler, I quote: "The Governors declared that it would be impossible [that Prussian and Japanese scholars meet] – there were no true scholars in Japan at all, merely amateurs who dabbled in science and, in any case, they did not reside in Edo, but were scattered across the entire land; it would not be possible to seek them out."

Nevertheless, the scientists found their ways to exchange their ideas. Japanese scientists heard reports of the coming Eulenburg mission, sought the Prussian scientists out and build up networks with them.

This is the way, scientific cooperation starts: through building of networks. Today this may be much easier for researchers, considering the many ways to keep in touch, and considering the support of funding agencies as for example JSPS and DFG provide. Nevertheless, personal dialogue is and will stay the basis of mutual projects and

¹ *Under Eagle Eyes: Lithographs, Drawings and Photographers from the Prussian Exhibition to Japan, 1860/61.*

shared ideas. Thus, there exist many scientific networks and bilateral cooperations between Japan and Germany in many different research areas. All of us here could surely name several scientists who dedicate themselves and their work to Japanese-German cooperation. Please allow me to mention only two on this occasion: Professor Tatsumi and Professor Erker. Just two hours ago I had the honor to award the DFG's Ilse and Eugen Seibold Prize to them. Among other outstanding achievements in the context of Japan-German collaborations, the chemist research duo founded the first Japanese-German Research Training Group, jointly funded by JSPS and DFG.

JSPS is one of our strong Japanese partners and friends, and it is a real pleasure to have this joint event today (with JSPS and the JSPS Alumni Club). We will continue to join our power to support Japanese-German cooperation. The JSPS office in Bonn – headed by Professor Kodaira – and the DFG office in Tokyo – headed by Dr. Iris Wieczorek – are important points of contact in this respect.

I would like to strongly encourage German researchers – especially in the current situation – to travel to Japan, continue or even deepen their cooperation with Japanese colleagues. Japan is a true scientific leader in many areas of science and I have no doubt that this will hold true for the future.

Now I would like to thank all those who have worked hard to make this year's event a success. My thanks also to the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities for its kind hospitality.

Einführung der Key Note Speaker (Nobelpreisträger Prof. Kobayashi und Prof. Klitzing)

Dear Japanese and German friends,

I have the special honor now to introduce today's first two speakers, two worldwide-known and highly respected scientists and nobel laureates of physics.

Professor Makoto Kobayashi received the Nobel Prize in 2008 for the discovery of the origin of the broken symmetry which predicts the existence of at least three families of quarks in nature. His scientific career began very early: After his PhD at Nagoya University in 1972, he since then has been closely related to KEK where he could enjoy his research. Later on, from 2003 to 2006, he served as the director of the Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies, KEK. Now, he is the executive director of JSPS. He was awarded also the J.J. Sakurai Prize in 1985, the EPS High Energy and Particle Physics Prize in 2007.

Professor Dr. Klaus von Klitzing, who will give the second key note speech is known for the discovery of the integer quantum Hall Effect, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1985. He completed his PhD thesis in 1972, and his habilitation in 1978. He stayed for some years at the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford and at the Grenoble High Magnetic Field Laboratory in France, where he continued to work until becoming a professor at the Technical University of Munich in 1980. Since 1985, Professor von Klitzing is a director of the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Stuttgart.

Dear Professor Kobayashi, we are looking forward to your speech now; I still remember your wonderful lecture at the opening of our DFG office Japan two years ago.