

The 9th Lecture**Harald Gehrig**

(First Counselor, Head of Cultural Affairs, German Embassy)

**“The 150th Anniversary of Japan-Germany
Friendship—Opening the Door to the Future
through Cultural Exchange”****Monday, December 6, 2010
The Tokai University Club**

I would like to begin the 9th lecture meeting of the Solidarity of International Judo Education. I am Mitsumoto of the secretariat, and I will be presiding at this meeting.

Thank you very much for coming today despite your busy year-end schedule.

First, the Executive Director of our NPO, Yasuhiro Yamashita, will report on his visit to Israel and Palestine.

Report on Israel and Palestine**Executive Director Yasuhiro Yamashita**

I appreciate so many members participating in the meeting even though it is the year-end when you must be busy.

At the 8th lecture meeting held in June this year, I talked about what we have done, as an NPO, over the past four years. The lecture has been reproduced in a booklet, copies of which are available for you to read.

Today, I would like to spend about 10 minutes delivering a report on the Israel/Palestine visit made by three of us, Secretary-General Mitsumoto, Kosei Inoue, and me, from July 17 to 23. The visit was made possible thanks to the efforts of the Japanese Minister to Israel, Kuninori Matsuda. Minister to Israel Matsuda was Director of the Russian Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before assuming the current position, and he and I have been on friendly terms since I worked to promote Japan-Russia exchange in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Assigned to Israel, Mr. Matsuda had urged me many times to visit Israel and Palestine in order to boost Japan’s exchange with them

through judo.

According to Mr. Matsuda, although Japan has had a friendly relationship with both Israel and Palestine, contribution to peace in the Middle East by the Japanese government including statesmen has been limited due to difficulties in fully implementing what we really want to do.

Thus, Mr. Matsuda wanted me to arrange a sports exchange through judo’s “spirit of harmony (Wa no Kokoro).”

Then, I received a letter of request from His Excellency Haruhisa Takeuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Israel. Over the course of time, my eagerness to cooperate increased along with the possibility that our organization might be of help.

The Japan Foundation kindly joined the plan, saying, “Mr. Yamashita, we should definitely do this. We will include it in our Instructor Dispatch Program.” This is how we could visit Israel and Palestine.

Children of Israel and Palestine**on the same tatami mat**

In Israel, we started with a lecture meeting and a judo class for instructors in charge of the Israeli national team. While host countries tend to want us to teach techniques, we like to convey the “spirit of judo,” i.e., the “spirit of Yawara,” the “spirit of harmony,” through which we want them to understand Japan. Thus, in all countries, we usually hold both a lecture meeting and a judo class as a set so as to address the spiritual aspect of judo as well as the technical aspect.

We also met with the Minister of Science, Culture and Sport and discussed the significance of our visit.



Then, we entered a Palestinian-controlled area. This photograph shows the “wall” behind us. Out of ignorance, I had assumed that people could travel freely within the Palestinian territories. However, when I actually went there, I discovered that the wall surrounds

all the cities and villages in the area, preventing the residents from moving freely beyond the wall. Still, we held our lecture and judo practice meeting in the autonomous Palestinian area.

On the last day of our visit, a judo class for Israeli and Palestinian children was held as a main event. The number of participants was about 50 in total.

Palestinian children living in the Jerusalem district were able to come to the class; unfortunately, children in other areas could not move freely and were unable to attend. Compared to Israeli children, Palestinian children are much poorer. Many of them did not have a full set of judogi (judo uniform) but only an uwagi (jacket). In the class, I talked for about 30 minutes about the “spirit of Yawara,” and then provided practical training with Kosei Inoue.

Our visit received considerable coverage by NHK.

On the day of filming, NHK wanted to interview me while children practiced judo in the background. After the interview was conducted, however, they said that it would be desirable to show a pair of Israeli and Palestinian children practicing judo together. Being inexperienced, I was somewhat upset to hear this, and said, “You should not be so self-centered. Children of Israel and Palestine are on the same tatami mat, which alone is a great accomplishment! Don’t be so selfish.” The interviewer understood and apologized to me. However, when I returned to the exercise hall, I found Israeli and Palestinian children practicing judo together.

After the class, a child from Palestine said, “I’ve never met or mixed with children from Israel. But once we started grappling, I found we’re both human. It’s really important to have such opportunities.”

That event was a humble attempt on our part, but I am glad that our intention was well understood.

Israeli-Palestinian exchange promoted through judo

Our visit had another major purpose, which was to invite Israeli and Palestinian junior high school students to the International Junior High School Judo Competition to be held at the Fukuoka Global Arena on December 26. We had proposed this when we met with the Israeli Minister of Science, Culture and Sport and

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in their respective territories. With a favorable response and both sides saying, “It is wonderful that our children can take part in such an event,” we started making preparations.

Israeli children are scheduled to arrive in Japan on December 17 and Palestinian children will come on December 18. The former will enter Japan one day earlier because Israeli people observe the Sabbath on Friday and refrain from traveling.

On Sunday, both the Israeli and Palestinian children will practice judo with children from Musashino City, Tokyo at Bosei Gakujuku located within the city. A joint practice session at Kodokan is also planned for the following day.

Regarding their schedule in Japan, Director Akiko Kato suggested that they take advantage of this visit and go to Hiroshima. Our immediate inquiry about the Hiroshima visit was met with an enthusiastic reply from both sides. Thus, Hiroshima is included in their itinerary: They will leave Tokyo on December 22 for Fukuoka on an early morning flight so that they can stop over at Hiroshima. There they will visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and pay a courtesy call to Hiroshima Mayor Akiba. After that they will go to Fukuoka by bus. The Israeli and Palestinian children will leave Japan on December 28 and 29, respectively.

I am scheduled to talk about this plan at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on December 20, where I was asked to have the Israeli and Palestinian team leaders with me. Due to the sensitive nature of the request, I was a little hesitant to agree. So, I forwarded the request to the Israeli and Palestinian teams, and found that they would be delighted to attend the press conference in the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. Thus, both the team leaders and I will speak at the press interview.

We owe these activities to the kind support and assistance of members who understand what our NPO has been doing. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have supported us.

We are determined to continue activities contributing towards peace with the focus on international exchange through sports. I would like to ask for further support

and understanding from you.

That concludes my report.

I thank Executive Director Yamashita. Next, Assistant Executive Director Toshiaki Hashimoto will speak for a while as an introduction to today's lecture.

Germany-Japan judo exchange

Assistant Executive Director Toshiaki Hashimoto

Thank you for coming to the lecture meeting of the Solidarity of International Judo Education.

Since this year marks the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of Japan-Germany exchange, Mr. Harald Gehrig, First Counselor, Head of Cultural Affairs, German Embassy has been invited to speak on cultural exchanges between Germany and Japan.

In a preparatory meeting with Mr. Gehrig, I suggested that I give a talk about the introduction of judo in Germany and Japan before he presents his lecture. So, I will begin. As we now enjoy diverse judo-associated relationships within the cultural exchange framework between Germany and Japan, I would like to talk about the "dawn of German judo," that is, how Master Jigoro Kano, the founder of Kodokan Judo, himself was involved in introducing judo to Germany. This initial exchange will be presented along with some research outcomes.

Japan-Germany judo exchange developed by Master Jigoro Kano

On January 24, 1861, with the signing of the treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation, exchange began between Japan and what was then Prussia. Master Kano studied in Germany in 1889 (the 22nd year of Meiji) and the following year, when he was 30 years old. At that time, the German Empire and Japan enjoyed an extremely good relationship and many young Japanese traveled to Germany to study. It is well known that the Meiji Constitution was modeled on that of Germany. Another example of the amicable relationship might be that Ogai Mori, a famous novelist, was sent to Germany to become an army surgeon; he studied medicine in Berlin from 1884 to 1888. Master Kano's German visit occurred just after Ogai's return to Japan.

During his stay in Germany, Master Kano may have directly taught judo. I would like to elaborate on this based on certain material.

Judo, the bulletin of Kodokan, published in 1933 (July issue, the 8th year of Showa) carried a report entitled "Judo in Europe" written by Keishichi Ishiguro, who went to France in 1924 (the 13th year of Taisho) and worked mainly in Paris. He wrote in the report: "We could definitely say that judo was formally introduced to Europe when Master Kano visited for the first time in September 1889 (the 22nd year of Meiji)."

He also points out that after listening to many Japanese students talk about judo and jujitsu, German people were developing a German-style judo. Actually, the German-style judo is said to have existed when Master Kano visited Germany.

In 1933 (the 8th year of Showa), Master Kano traveled to Europe via Siberia with Sumiyuki Kotani, a sixth dan at that time, and Masami Takasaki. By way of Moscow, they arrived in Berlin on June 15, and then toured through Europe including Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Spain, spreading judo as well as having preliminary discussions to found the International Judo Federation. They also worked hard to bring the Olympics to Japan.

Mr. Takasaki also contributed a travel article entitled "Memoir of Attendance" to the bulletin *Judo*. According to him, the purpose of Master Kano's visit to Berlin was to spread judo, promote its proper understanding, and "observe the so-called German-style judo." Mr. Takasaki's memoir reports that the German-style judo had become widespread and there were 400–500 clubs throughout the country.

There is a record as well that Master Kano met with officials of the German government including Prime Minister Hitler and exchanged opinions about the educational situation in Japan. Master Kano also visited a sports university, a police academy, and a sports school of the German army where he gave lectures on judo. The record states that Master Kano had a good command of foreign languages, and flexibly changed languages depending on the circumstances, adding explanations in German and/or English while giving lectures in Japanese.

During the one-month stay in Berlin, they gave a two-hour lecture twice a day, for 10 days. Mr. Takasaki reported that the attendees' earnest attitude impressed them as "demonstrating a wonderful German characteristic." Master Kano also attended the German Sports Festival held in Stuttgart, where he happened to see Hitler making a famous speech in front of the audience. Lecture sessions by Master Kano were held in Munich as well.

Prof. Sumiyuki Kotani accompanying Master Kano wrote an essay, "Travelling Europe accompanying Master Kano," which was subsequently incorporated in a book entitled *The Straight Path of Judo* published in 1984 by Baseball Magazine Sha Co., Ltd. Prof. Kotani said that Kitabatake Kyoshin, a future member of the House of Councillors who at the time was a fifth dan and studied in Germany, took them around the sights of Germany. Personally astonished, Master Kano is reported to have mentioned the huge difference between Germany where he had studied at the age of 30 and the same country he visited again in 1933 (the 8th year of Showa) when he was 72 or 73 years old.

Prof. Kotani also wrote: "Young Germans are so enthusiastic that their spirit rises to the skies. We were very surprised to hear that they wanted to learn all the judo techniques from us during our stay in Berlin." They were police officials in the old-jujitsu style uniform, shorts and a half-sleeved jacket. Yet they stated that jujitsu originated in Germany and then spread to Japan, claiming that they are the founders of jujitsu. This explanation "astounded" Prof. Kotani. However, Master Kano smiled while listening to them and then explained the principles of judo to the German participants.

What Prof. Kotani never failed to mention is the deliciousness of the beer that he enjoyed in the beer halls after judo practice. "Unforgettable" is the word he used, which is a universal, timeless impression, I suppose.

To diffuse the spirit of judo throughout the world

The founder of Tokai University, Dr. Shigeyoshi Matsumae, who laid a major ideological foundation for

the establishment of our NPO, studied abroad in Germany in 1933. While reading his autobiography, I learned that he left Japan on April 1, 1933 and returned on June 1 the following year. He arrived in Berlin in early June and practiced judo in a judo school where Mr. Kitabatake also attended. This is also mentioned at the beginning of the *World History of Judo* compiled by Sanzo Maruyama. According to the autobiography, Dr. Matsumae worked to arrange a lecture meeting with Master Kano, who explained the essence of judo in German and visited Siemens where Dr. Matsumae studied. Finally, Dr. Matsumae remarks that the development of judo, which was included in the Tokyo Olympic Games and has become a world sport, is attributed to the efforts of Master Kano, the founder of judo.

As you know, Dr. Shigeyoshi Matsumae stood as a candidate for president of the International Judo Federation despite his advanced age. I presume it is because the image of Master Kano held a special place in his heart, as a passionate lecturer on judo in Germany in spite of much more unfavorable travel conditions and his advanced age.

After coming back from Germany, Master Kano sent an article to a Kodokan magazine saying, "Kodokan Judo, or contemporary judo aims at not only physical training but also at an understanding of the fundamental principles of judo and their application to all aspects of social life. It is not just a few people who focus only on the techniques, forgetting the spiritual elements of judo. My work from now on is to encourage people to spiritually apply the judo principles in society. Similarly, Kodokan needs to work harder for that purpose in the future." I think this is a sincere wish of the founder that the spirit of judo should be spread and applied in society.

It follows then that his wish can also be a guiding principle for the humble activities of our NPO. Pursuing the purpose of judo set by the founder, Master Jigoro Kano, we would like to work together with you.

Today, we will hear more about our relationship with Germany, which has had a strong association with the Japanese people including Master Kano. I am truly looking forward to it.

I would like to once again introduce today's guest speaker, Mr. Harald Gehrig. Please welcome him with applause.

Mr. Gehrig is First Counselor and Head of Cultural Affairs of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Japan and works hard for Japan-Germany cultural exchange.

Thank you very much, Mr. Gehrig. Ms. Sasaki of the German Embassy will serve as interpreter.

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of Japan-Germany friendship, with cultural exchange opening the door to the future by Harald Gehrig

(First Counselor, Head of Cultural Affairs, German Embassy)

Good evening, everyone. I am Gehrig from the German Embassy and I am honored to have this opportunity of speaking before you. My lecture in German will be interpreted by Ms. Sasaki, but first I would like to say a few words in my poor Japanese.

Hearing that the Solidarity of International Judo Education acted as an intermediary for the Palestine-Israel exchange, I am impressed with the wonderful role that you played. This is the true significance of sports. Thank you for such an instructive example.

Although Judo is popular in Germany, soccer is a representative sport of our country. So, I would like to promote exchange between Palestine and Israel through soccer.

Cultural/scientific relationship preceding political/economic exchange

I was born in a small town in southern Germany that has a population of around 10,000. Fencing is widespread and Mr. Thomas Bach, President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation and Vice President of the International Olympic Committee, is also from this town.

I am to talk about Japan-Germany relations today, and as a person in charge of cultural affairs, I would like to focus on the cultural and scientific aspects of the relationship. I will now talk in German.

The Japan-Germany relationship in the field of culture and science has always anteceded that of politics and economy. This has a great influence on our relationship even today, distinguishing the relations between the two nations from that with other countries, and also constitutes the foundation for our deep mutual respect.

Cultural/scientific exchange between Japan and Germany had started much earlier than the official establishment of diplomatic relations with the signing of the treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation in 1861. The initial encounter dates back to the 17th century, when German doctors at the Dutch East India Company conducted research in natural science and ethnology, arousing the curiosity of Europe, including Germany, about Japan. The interest lasted a long time; Engelbert Kaempfer wrote a book based on his study and observations about Japan, which decided the image of Japan in the period of Enlightenment. Equally, physician Philipp Franz von Siebold had a considerable impact on the diffusion of modern Japanology in the 19th century.

During the Meiji era, when Wilhelm von Humboldt promoted educational reform in Germany, many German people actively worked in Japan as advisors and educators. Among them, jurists Albert Mosse and Hermann Roesler were involved in drafting the Meiji Constitution taking that of Prussia for a model. Julius Scriba and Erwin von Bälz are regarded as the fathers of modern Japanese medicine and Heinrich Edmund Naumann is called the father of geology in Japan. Furthermore, historian Ludwig Riess and mineralogist Curt Adolph Netto taught at the University of Tokyo.

Academic exchange deepened in the 20th century

In 1974, an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in science and technology was concluded between the two countries, followed by the establishment of the Japanese-German Center Berlin in 1985 and the German Institute for Japanese Studies in 1988. Moreover, Japan has been an important partner of German universities in Asia, with the increasing number of interuniversity cooperation agreements reaching

about 300. These agreements cover all relevant areas including mobility of students and scholars, programs for joint study abroad, and joint research programs.

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, hereinafter DAAD) provides scholarships for Japanese students in doctoral and masters courses who want to study in Germany, for summer courses at universities, and for language programs. There is also a scholarship program for re-inviting former international students to Germany. In addition, the Center for German and European Studies was established by DAAD at the University of Tokyo in 2000, which now serves as a hub of German-related studies and lectures.

Approximately 250 German lecturers are presently at Japanese universities and the number of former scholarship recipients from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or DAAD has reached over 4,000. As just described, Germany is an attractive country in which to study. According to statistics, the number of Japanese students in Germany has been increasing steadily since 1990, from 1,200 to 1,500. Germany is the fourth favorite destination of study abroad for Japanese university students.

Apart from exchange at the university level, there are many joint projects and cooperation agreements between research institutions in the two countries, complementing collaboration among universities. German examples of such cooperation can be seen in the Fraunhofer Society, the Max Planck Institute, the Helmholtz Association, and the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Scientific Community. Their activities are supported by the regular exchange of students and scholars promoted by DAAD and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as well as by programs assisted by the German Research Foundation in cooperation with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Last year, for the first time in Japan, the German Innovation Award was created mainly by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan. This award is officially named the “Gottfried Wagener Prize” after the German natural scientist and founder of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, and is given to Japanese natural scientists actively working in environment,

energy, healthcare/medicine, or safety/security. Prizes totaling nine million yen are donated by 12 German companies, and include fellowships funded by DAAD that allow the winners to study in Germany for two months.

Furthermore, the government of Germany established the Philipp Franz von Siebold Prize more than 25 years ago, which has been awarded to young Japanese scholars of the natural and human sciences, contributing to exchange with Germany. The prize amounts to 50,000 Euros, the highest among prizes given by Germany to foreign scholars. This prize is presented by the President of Germany.

As shown by these examples, there are various forms of exchange in the fields of culture and science between Japan and Germany.

Lasting cultural/scientific exchange enabled by mutual efforts

We had the “Year of Japan in Germany” in 1999-2000 and the “Year of Germany in Japan” in 2005-2006.

For these projects, similarly to the current 150th anniversary of Japan-Germany friendship, our bilateral relationship in scientific areas was a major focus.

While we enjoy a wide range of cultural and scientific relations, we should not be content with the status quo. Rather, it is crucial that we maintain and reinforce our mutual interests. Ceaseless efforts from both countries are required in order to pass down the foundation of Japan-Germany relations to future generations.

What I consider a warning sign in this regard is that young Japanese are visibly much less interested in the German language compared to before. This could be attributed to several factors. First, many Japanese universities have made second-language study non-mandatory. On the other hand, interest in the culture and language of neighboring Asian countries has been increasing among young people in Japan, which I suppose is quite natural.

Moreover, the overwhelming image of Americanization, which is a global tendency, and ever-growing penetration of the English language hinder Japanese and German youths from developing an

interest in the German language and culture. Aiming to keep the Japanese-German relationship as active and intimate as in the past, I think this is a very serious issue for our future.

I understand that Tokai University has long recognized this issue and has started addressing it. A good example of this response is the diversified activities of Tokai University introduced by the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director in their speeches today.

I pay homage to your services to those activities, and I would also like you to continue such a wide variety of work in the future.

As the government of Germany, we have taken measures against young people's declining interest in our culture and language. As I mentioned earlier, the Federal President annually awards the Philipp Franz von Siebold Prize to young scholars of the human and natural sciences. In addition, the German Cultural Center (Goethe-Institute) is engaged in the diffusion of the German language and DAAD manages a network to support and advise German instructors and Japanese Germanists. Furthermore, every year, the German Cultural Center (Goethe-Institute) provides the Federal Foreign Office's Lessing Translation Award for the best translation of the year and the Max Dauthendey Pen Award for the best Japanese translation of German literature.

The German Embassy and the German Cultural Center (Goethe-Institute) cooperate closely to promote the German language through the initiative of partner schools. One fourth of German learners in schools in Japan are supported by this initiative.

Now, let me tell you about something that I just remembered. When the Tokyo Olympic Games were held in 1964, I was still in my teens and I watched the talented Japanese judoists on television at home. At that time, black & white television was the mainstream, but color television had become more popular with this event. To watch the Tokyo Olympic Games on a color television, I went to a relative's house. There I happened to learn of a country called "Japan" for the first time. It is this experience that subsequently led me to Japan.

Strengthening education to cope with weakening national power linked to the falling birthrate

With no further personal anecdotes, I will now get back on track.

Nowadays in Germany, education is a pressing problem. The demographic trend of the future foresees a shortage of university students in about six years, which means that Germany will face a shortage of professional engineers. In 10 years, the number of students will decline by nearly one million, the effect of which will be most striking in terms of young engineers and natural scientists.

Those who take a pessimistic view anticipate that Germany's status as an innovation hub will decline considerably, partially losing its competitive advantages acquired through great effort. If this were the case, "Made in Germany" would no longer be a brand.

I, however, do not have such a gloomy perspective. Germany is, similarly to Japan, a country blessed with plentiful ideas. It continues to have a great impact on regional and global innovations as well as its own economy to be an excellent research center. This is clearly evidenced by the re-increasing number of German Nobel laureates these years, including Theodor Hänsch, Peter Grünberg, and Harald zur Hausen. Japan has already produced 10 Nobel Prize winners since the start of the 21st century such as Dr. Makoto Kobayashi and Dr. Ryoji Noyori. As you know, the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is to be awarded to two Japanese, Dr. Ei-ichi Negishi and Dr. Akira Suzuki, together with Dr. Richard Fred Heck of America, for their development of cross-coupling technology.

Still, one thing that is obvious is that enormous efforts are needed to maintain this high quality in a globalized world. The importance of education is well recognized in the sphere of politics. Amid the financial crisis striking a blow to national budgets worldwide, Germany significantly increased its budget appropriation for research, education, and innovation. This year, an additional 12 billion Euros has been allocated to education/research-related activities. This is a signal of great consequence coming from the recognition that education and science have vital significance in

Germany. I suppose this is probably because these two areas are the basis on which our country will shape the future. Education, research, and innovation are also fundamental to overcome the financial crisis in the long run.

Public and private investment in education/research currently amounts to 215 billion Euros, approaching the latest, self-imposed target of “investing one tenth of the German GDP in education and R&D.” In this regard, the Federal government and the private sector join hands, seeing innovation, advancement, and the promise of the country as common ends of both the public and private sectors.

With the growing significance of globalization, a large portion of the additional budget has been allocated for internationalization of education. Approximately 720 million Euros, one fourth of the Foreign Office’s budget, is allotted for external cultural and educational measures, two thirds of which is used for international cooperation in the field of education. Interest from overseas countries in educational cooperation with Germany has increased considerably. This can be said about all the educational areas including school and vocational/university education.

This phenomenon may be attributed to the “Excellence Initiative” reform that greatly strengthened the competitiveness of German universities. This initiative put particular emphasis on cooperative relationships in education with an agreement of the ruling coalition. The agreement states: “We will focus on promotion of international education, making Germany a huge exporter in that area.”

Today, it is more difficult than ever for educational establishments to exist exclusively domestically. Know-how used and applied in Germany as a center of research and education can be universally applicable. Consequently, cooperation in education and R&D beyond national borders is more emphasized as a central activity of Germany.

By providing education meeting international standards for the future generation, Germany attracts students and scientists from overseas. Take China, for instance. About 27,000 Chinese students are presently studying in Germany. We provide international students

with “educational” resources, which are also considered as value. Around one third of the international students graduating from German universities decide to remain in Germany, valuing its favorable fundamental conditions as an education and research center, and contributing to German innovation and growth as scientists/experts. We would like to maintain and advance the current situation. Thus, we intend to reinforce our efforts for academic international cooperation by reducing administrative barriers.

A common pressing issue of Germany and Japan: Establishment of autonomy and internationalization of universities

Japanese and German universities face similar issues. For German universities, one of the major issues of the immediate future is the progress of the “Bologna Process” and its improvement. University autonomy established in many countries should be consolidated further. It is also necessary that universities consider internationalization not only as a concept for curriculum development and research programs but also for the entire process of university operations. This applies to Japanese universities as well. In Japan, with much greater autonomy given to state-run universities, what is required is a new management and quality-securing system.

Similarly to German counterparts, Japanese universities are under the huge pressure of globalization, which promotes their internationalization. In clear contrast to Germany, it is private institutions that educate 70% of university students in Japan.

As a result of the remarkable advancement in university internationalization in Japan as well as in Germany, there is a great opportunity for academic cooperation. It is commonly recognized in the two countries that universities should actively address educational and research issues brought about through the process of globalization. Consequently, further internationalization is inevitable.

There are still obstacles concerning mobility and accreditation between Germany and Japan, however. The present world of science places greater emphasis than ever on transparency and international cooperation,

creating a global network. I believe this is our advantage for successfully generating competitive ideas; Japan and Germany have already been establishing such a network for many years.

A case in point is the German Research and Innovation Forum Tokyo, which was founded on the basis of the long, fruitful cooperative relationship between Japan and Germany, aiming at uncovering common treasures of the two countries. It is these very treasures that are directly associated with my lecture, "Future treasures based on education and research."

Through the events commemorating the 150th anniversary of Japan-Germany friendship held in Japan and Germany, we look ahead to the future, making young people a main target of the activities. Both governments have agreed to celebrate the anniversary throughout the year. It has also been agreed that this commemorative project will be headed by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito as the honorary presidents on each side.

In Japan, with the initiative of our German Embassy, the opening ceremony of the 150th anniversary celebration took place in the German School Tokyo Yokohama (Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama; DSTY) on October 16, attracting as many as 8,000 participants. In 2011, various major events are planned including a rock festival, "Germany rocks Japan," and a large-scale ceremony at Osanbashi Pier. In addition, various meetings/entertainment are planned by the German Cultural Center (Goethe-Institute), the business community, and citizens' groups.

We would like you, particularly students, to actively take part in these commemorative events. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Questions and Answers

Thank you very much. One hundred and fifty years have passed since academic and cultural exchange was started by many ambitious Japanese who went to Germany, which as we have learned from Mr. Gehrig's lecture employs a policy of high quality for education and scientific technology nowadays. Let's give him another big hand.

Do you have any questions?

—Thank you very much for such an interesting lecture. I am Yamaguchi, and I would like to ask two questions.

You mentioned that universities are highly internationalized in terms of their educational role. Even after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, it is said that East-West economic or technological disparity remained for over ten years as a result of the Cold War in Germany. Is there such a disparity in university education as a consequence of the Cold War?

The other question is about immigrants. From what I have heard, since the Lehman Shock, racial prejudice against Turkish immigrants has been growing, particularly among low-income population living in the east side of Germany. I suppose this phenomenon is contrary to internationalization of Germany, but is the prejudice against immigration policy deep-rooted?

I am afraid these are rather rambling, spontaneous questions, but I would be happy if you could kindly answer them.



Thank you very much for two excellent questions. I would like to start by answering the first question. I am afraid that I cannot say that the disparity has totally disappeared. However, enormous efforts have been made to eliminate it.

For example, after the reunification of Germany, we saw many people move from east to west and vice versa within the country. With regard to university education, very high-level students from the former East Germany have studied in universities located in the west side of Germany. I hope that through this mutual exchange, the East-West disparity has shrunk considerably.

Today, many students especially like to study in former East German cities such as Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin. Berlin has two major universities, the Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin, and many technology-oriented universities. As for the general preference of students, I feel that there are many students who prefer studying in universities in the region of the former East Germany.

It depends on the academic areas provided by the

universities, but it can be said that science-related courses of higher quality are offered by universities located in the former West Germany. The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and RWTH Aachen University, for instance, are very famous in the field of technology. Similarly, the west side tends to have a slight advantage in the study of economics. However, I can give you an example of Japanese-German university exchange that is between the University of Tokyo and the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, a small university located in the former East Germany. It is an exchange program of absolute excellence.

Your second question is also a very good one. Surely, internationalization and preconceptions about immigrants sharply contradict each other. It is also a fact, however, that many citizens feel threatened by the presence of immigrants as the economy slows down. To solve the problem, we need to do many things. On the other hand, when the economy becomes stronger, the problem lessens. Thus, while our efforts are still required in this regard, what is crucial is our economic condition. With a strong economy, I would hope that xenophobia and acts of extreme violence will subside.

As a supplementary explanation, eight million people of non-German descent currently live in Germany. Compared to the immigrant situation in Japan, this number is high.

In the 1960s, the circumstances surrounding immigration were very different from those today. Migrant workers from Italy and Spain were rather welcomed in Germany. German people felt no threat from the increase in foreign workers within the country. What was wrong with the immigration policy was that we accepted low-skilled guest workers. It is essential to have foreign laborers with appropriate skills.

—Thank you very much. Although we are running out of time, I would like to put the final question to Mr. Gehrig. You said that to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Japan-Germany relations there are many occasions in Japan introducing German culture and technology as well as academic exchange between us. What kind of events are to be held in Germany to introduce Japan and its culture?



This is another good question, thank you. For the 150th anniversary of the Japan-Germany friendship we have role-sharing arrangements. The German Embassy in Tokyo is responsible for the events in Japan while the Embassy of Japan in Berlin takes charge of those in Germany.

A very large number of events are planned, many of which are about traditional Japan. To be specific, traditional Japanese culture such as Noh and Kyogen will be introduced. Regarding sports, a marathon race is planned. Celebrating the 150th anniversary, “Japan Week” annually held in Düsseldorf will increase in scale.

There are various kinds of events, so if you would like to learn the details, please visit the websites of the Embassy of Japan in Berlin or the German Embassy in Tokyo, where all the events are presented.

I would like to inform you about the Kandinsky exhibition as an event related to the 150th anniversary commemorated in Japan, which has already opened at the Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum. Kandinsky himself is not German, but he lived in our country for many years, producing outstanding works. He formed an artists’ group called “Blue Rider,” which was unique to Germany. I encourage you to visit the exhibition.

With regard to music, the Dresden Philharmonic (Dresdner Philharmonie) will be on tour in Japan. Also, an exhibition of Meissen ceramics will be held on January 8, 2011. With more than 300 pieces displayed, the exhibition includes all the historic epochs over the 300-year history of Meissen. Whereas Meissen ceramics themselves are art works with a long tradition, they also represent the history of Japan-Germany exchange since Meissen ceramics was modeled on Arita ware in Japan.

—Thank you very much. Today’s lecture meeting was held as part of the events commemorating the 150th anniversary of Japan-Germany friendship, supported by the German Embassy. Thank you very much for coming today despite your busy schedule. Lastly, please give another round of applause to our guest lecturer.

The lecture meeting is finished. Thank you very much for taking the time to attend.