

Japanese-German Forum

The 32nd Meeting

October 29–31, 2024

International Conference Room,
1st Fl., First Diet Members' Building

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Program

Tuesday, October 29th

(18:45 *Bus leaves Hotel New Otani The Main, Banquet Floor Entrance
[Japanese 1st Floor] for The Iikura Guest House)*

19:15-20:45 **Reception, hosted by Takeshi IWAYA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan**
[The Iikura Guest House]

(21:00 *Bus leaves The Iikura Guest House for Hotel New Otani)*

Wednesday, October 30th

[International Conference Room]

(8:25 *Bus leaves Hotel New Otani The Main, Banquet Floor Entrance
[Japanese 1st Floor] for First Diet Members' Bldg.)*

9:00-9:10 **Opening remarks by the Chairmen**
Eizo KOBAYASHI (Director Emeritus, ITOCHU Corporation)
Matthias NASS (Chief International Correspondent, *DIE ZEITUNG*)

9:10-12:00 **SESSION I Current Political and Economic Situation in Japan and
Germany – How to Cope with the Population Issues and the
Demographic Change**

CHAIR: Eizo KOBAYASHI

JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE:

Naoya YOSHINO (Chief, International News Center, *NIKKEI
Shimbun*)

Dr. Reiko HAYASHI (Director-General, National Institute of
Population and Social Security Research)

GERMAN PERSPECTIVE:

Prof. Dr. Karl-Rudolf KORTE (Professor, Institute of Political
Science, University of Duisburg-Essen)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break [Multipurpose Room]

12:00-13:00 Lunch [Multipurpose Room]

13:00-15:30 **SESSION II Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Changes and Impacts on Society and Desirable Forms of Regulation**

CHAIR: Eizo KOBAYASHI

JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE:

Prof. Dr. Yutaka MATSUO (Professor, University of Tokyo)

GERMAN PERSPECTIVE:

Prof. Dr. Paul LUKOWICZ (Scientific Director, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence [DFKI GmbH])

14:15-14:30 Coffee Break [Multipurpose Room]

(15:30-16:00 Preparation for Open Session)

16:00-17:30 **Open Session for SESSION II (online and partly physical participation) Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Changes and Impacts on Society and Desirable Forms of Regulation**

MODERATOR:

Keisuke MURAKAMI (Head of Group of Services for Citizen, Digital Agency of Japan)

JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE:

Prof. Dr. Yutaka MATSUO

GERMAN PERSPECTIVE:

Prof. Dr. Paul LUKOWICZ

(17:40 *Bus leaves First Diet Members' Bldg. for Hotel New Otani*)

(18:30 *Bus leaves Hotel New Otani for Ambassador's residence*)

19:00-20:30 **Reception, hosted by Ambassador Petra SIGMUND, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Japan**

[Ambassador's residence]

(20:40 *Bus leaves Ambassador's residence for Hotel New Otani*)

Thursday, October 31st

[International Conference Room]

(8:55 *Bus leaves Hotel New Otani The Main, Banquet Floor Entrance
[Japanese 1st Floor] for First Diet Members' Bldg.)*

9:30–12:20 **SESSION III Foreign Policy - Outlook on the International Order
after the US Presidential Election** [International Conference Room]

CHAIR: Matthias NASS

GERMAN PERSPECTIVE:

Prof. Dr. Daniela SCHWARZER (Executive Board, Bertelsmann
Stiftung)

JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE:

Ichiro FUJISAKI (Former Japanese Ambassador to USA)

11:00–11:15 Coffee break [Multipurpose Room]

12:20–12:30 **Closing remarks by the Chairmen**

12:30–13:15 Lunch [Multipurpose Room]

(13:30 *Bus leaves First Diet Members' Bldg. for Hotel New Otani)*

18:05–18:20 **Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Shigeru ISHIBA**

END OF THE PROGRAM

List of Japanese Participants

[Chairman]

Eizo KOBAYASHI Director Emeritus, ITOCHU Corporation

[Participants]

Ichiro FUJISAKI Former Japan Ambassador to the U.S.; President, The America-Japan Society, Inc.

Koichiro GEMBA Member of the House of Representatives (The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan [CDP])

Dr. Reiko HAYASHI Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

Yasuhiro IHARA Executive Managing Director, K.K. Kyodo News

Kaori IIDA Deputy Chief Commentator, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)

Keiko IIZUKA Editorial Writer & Senior Political Writer, *The Yomiuri Shimbun*

Tsutomu ISHIAI Senior Staff Writer, *The Asahi Shimbun*, Japan

Ren ITO Co-Founder and COO, Sakana AI

Takashi ITO Corporate Executive, Senior General Manager, Corporate Economic Security Division, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation

Prof. Dr. Yoko IWAMA Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Isao KANO President and CEO, Japan Center for International Exchange

Yoriyuki KASHIWAGI Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer, Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.

Izuru KATO President & Chief Economist, Totan Research Co., Ltd.

Prof. Dr. Yoko KAWAMURA Professor, Department of Cross-Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University

Minoru KIUCHI Minister of State for Economic Security; Member, House of Representatives (Liberal Democratic Party [LDP])

Makiko KOMATSU President and Representative Director, Komatsu Spring Industrial Co., Ltd.

Prof. Dr. Yutaka MATSUO Professor, Matsuo-Iwasa Lab, University of Tokyo

Norihide MIYOSHI Journalist

Dr. Masahiko MORI President, DMG MORI Co., Ltd.

Keisuke MURAKAMI	Director General for Public Service Group, Digital Agency of Japan
Masaharu NAKAGAWA	Former Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Former Member of the House of Representatives (CDP)
Tetsuo NARUKAWA	Deputy Chairman, Japanese-German Business Association (DJW); Outside Director of Okasan Securities Co., Ltd.
Shinichi SATO	Senior Manager, Overseas External Affairs & Advocacy Department, Marketing & External Affairs Division, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.
Mitsuko SHINO	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in Germany
Atsushi TAKEDA	President and CEO, Chief Economist, ITOCHU Research Institute Inc.
Kenji TOTOKI	Executive Officer, General Manager of Marketing and External Relations Division, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.
Takeshi YAGI	President, Japanese-German Center Berlin
Hidenao YANAGI	Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in Germany
Naoya YOSHINO	Chief, International News Center Editorial Division, <i>The NIKKEI Shimbun</i>
[Observers]	
Makoto ISHIKAWA	Deputy General Manager, Center for External Relations, ITOCHU Research Institute Inc.
Wataru ISHIKAWA	Director, Central and South Eastern Europe Division, MOFA
Hiroyuki IWAMI	Senior Advisor, <i>The NIKKEI Shimbun</i>
Hiroshi MIYAZAKI	General Manager and Senior Research Fellow, Center for Macroeconomics, ITOCHU Research Institute Inc.
Sayaka NAKAGAWA	Assistant to former MP Nakagawa
Hiroki SAWAMURA	Deputy Director, Central and South Eastern Europe Division, MOFA
Seiichiro TAGUCHI	Deputy Assistant Minister, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, MOFA
Yuichiro TAKAI	Researcher, Totan Research Co., Ltd.

[Secretariat]

Dai FUNAKI

Senior Program Officer, JCIE

Patrick ISHIYAMA

Digital and Print Production Officer, JCIE

Kana KANEKO

Program Officer, JCIE

Gaeun KIM

Assistant Researcher, JCIE

Shigeko KONDO

Program Officer, JCIE

Sonoko UDAGAWA

Staff member, JCIE

List of German Participants

[Chairman]

Matthias NASS Chief International Correspondent, *DIE ZEIT*

[Participants]

Tobias B. BACHERLE MP (Alliance 90/The Greens)

Prof. Dr. Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT Executive Vice President, Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Karl-Rudolf KORTE Professor, Institute of Political Science, University of Duisburg-Essen

Prof. Dr. Paul LUKOWICZ Scientific Director, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH)

Gerda MEUER Former Director of Programming, Deutsche Welle

Michael MÜLLER MP (SPD)

Frank MÜLLER-ROSENTRITT MP (FDP)

Dr. Julia MÜNCH Secretary General, JDZB

Prof. Dr. Daniela SCHWARZER Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Ambassador Petra SIGMUND Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Sabine STRICKER-KELLERER Lawyer, SSK Asia

Prof. Dr. Gabriele VOGT Chair of Japanese Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Dr. Johann D. WADEPHUL MP (CDU/CSU)

Prof. Dr. Franz WALDENBERGER Director, German Institute for Japanese Studies

Hanno D. WENTZLER Former Member of the Executive Council of the Freudenberg Group

Gerhard WIESHEU Chief Executive Officer, B. Metzler seel. Sohn & Co. AG

Christian WULFF Former Federal President of Germany

[Young Leaders Alumni and Alumnae]

Rieko FUKUTOME	Deputy Director of the National Personnel Authority, Government of Japan
Naho KAWAUCHI	Contract Manager, Siemens K.K.
Jenny LEHMANN	Deputy Head of the Department of Science Policy, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
Leo SAKAGUCHI	Project Manager, Sumitomo Corporation/Chairman of the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum Alumni Association

[Observers]

Jens BARYSCH	Office Christian Wulff
Dr. Katharina EMSCHERMANN	Senior Policy Advisor, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens
Martin HUTH	Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy
Kenji MATSUMOTO	Deputy Secretary General, JDZB
Dr. Fabrizio MICALIZZI	First Secretary, German Embassy
Gunnar MICHEEL	First Secretary, German Embassy
Livia PUGLISI	Head of Office, Office Christian Wulff
Dr. Tilman SCHMIT-NEUERBURG	Minister-Counsellor, German Embassy
Sebastian SCHULZ	Office Christian Wulff
Dr. Dan TIDTEN	Counsellor, German Embassy
Sabine TSUSHIMA	German Embassy

[Secretariat]

Dr. Phoebe Stella HOLDGRÜN	Head of Project Management, JDZB
Carolin WEIDMANN	Assistant to Team Projects, JDZB

Profiles of Japanese Participants

[CHAIRMAN]

Eizo KOBAYASHI

Eizo Kobayashi is Director Emeritus of ITOCHU Corporation. He joined C. Itoh & Co. Ltd., currently ITOCHU Corporation, in 1972, and worked in the information technology sector. He was stationed in Hong Kong from 1976, and then in Los Angeles as Senior Vice President & General Manager from 1986. He returned to Japan in 1997 and became Chief Operating Officer of the Information Technology & Telecommunication Division in 1999. He was promoted from Managing Director, to Senior Managing Director, then President and CEO in 2004, Chairman in 2010, and to Senior Representative for Business Community Relations of ITOCHU Corporation in 2018. He holds his current position since April 2020. Apart from the Japanese Co-Chairman of the Japanese–German Forum, he serves as Chairman of the Japan–Turkey Society, independent director of several companies, and member of expert committees of numerous Japanese ministries and agencies.

[PARTICIPANTS]

Ichiro FUJISAKI

Ichiro Fujisaki is currently President of the America-Japan Society. He had been a Japanese diplomat who served as Ambassador to the United States from 2008 to 2012. Before that he was Ambassador to the United Nations and to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, serving as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. His other posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs included terms as Deputy Director-General for Asian Affairs, Political Minister in the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC, Director-General for North American Affairs before being appointed Deputy Foreign Minister. After his retirement, he served as a professor at Sophia University for five years, after which, he served as the President of the Nakasone Peace Institute for five years until April 2023. He studied at Keio University, Brown University, and the Stanford University Graduate School.

Koichiro GEMBA

Koichiro Gemba is an eleven-term member of the House of Representatives and former Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Noda Cabinet (2011-12). He was Minister for National Policy, Minister of State for the New Public Commons, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, and Minister for Space Policy in the Kan Cabinet. Within the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), he has served as Chairman of the Committee on Financial Affairs, Chair of the DPJ Policy Research Committee, Deputy Secretary General (2005), and Chair of the DPJ Election Campaign Committee (2003, 2016). After graduating from the Faculty of Law of Sophia University in 1987, he studied at the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management. In 1993, he was elected to the House of Representatives as an independent and in 1998 joined the DPJ.

Reiko HAYASHI

Reiko Hayashi is Director-General of Japan's National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS). Before joining IPSS in 2012, she served as technical advisor to the Minister of Health of Senegal (2008–2011), and had been engaged in projects of international cooperation concerning population, health and development in various countries. Her research covers health and longevity, migration, and population development policies. She holds a PhD in policy studies from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan. She is President of the Asian Population Association (2022–2024) as well as serving as a member of ICD and ICF Commissions of the Social Security Council of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the expert panel of the Japanese government's Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals, and Japan's delegation to the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations.

Yasuhiro IHARA

Yasuhiro Ihara worked for nearly 20 years in the Political News Section of Kyodo News, covering the Prime Minister's Office, the Liberal Democratic Party, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Defense Agency (now the Ministry of Defense). He reported on issues such as the reform of the House of Representatives election system and the US military bases in Okinawa in the 1990s. He was dispatched to Washington DC as correspondent in 1998 and covered the 2000 US presidential election between Bush and Gore. After returning to Japan, he served as Deputy Editor of the Political News Section, then was appointed Chief Editor of the Political News Section in 2010. He assumed the position of Deputy Managing Editor of the News Department in 2012, Managing Director of the General Administration Department in 2015, Managing Director of the Nagoya Branch Office in 2016, Managing Editor of the News Department in 2018, Executive Director in 2019, and Senior Executive Director in 2022. In June 2024, he was appointed Executive Managing Director of the group company K.K. Kyodo News. Mr. Ihara is a 1983 graduate of Yokohama National University.

Kaori IIDA

Kaori IIDA currently serves as Deputy Chief Commentator at NHK, Japan's public broadcasting company. Previously, she was Director of the Digital News Division and Editor of NHK's flagship news program "News Watch 9." Prior to that, she was the LA Bureau Chief covering technology business and Senior Economic Correspondent in Washington DC reporting on monetary and trade policies. Through her career as reporter and anchorperson of NHK's evening business news program, she has had the opportunity to interview an eclectic group of leaders and innovators from Elon Musk to Lady Gaga. She has also moderated numerous sessions at the World Economic Forum and the IMF.

Keiko IIZUKA

Keiko Iizuka is Senior Political Writer at *The Yomiuri Shimbun* and lead commentator for the evening TV news program "News in Depth (Shinso News)" on the BS4 channel. Her expertise covers international politics focusing on Indo-Pacific security affairs, Japan-US relations, and European affairs as well as Japanese domestic politics. She was Chief Editor for international news for *Yomiuri* (2015–2017), Washington Bureau Chief (2013–2015), and Chief Political Correspondent at the Prime Minister's Office under Prime Minister Abe (2006–2007.) She wrote extensively on Japan-US alliance and the US Forces in Japan. She was also a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution from 2008 to 2009. She has held several other positions at the paper including London Correspondent from 2003 to 2006, covering British politics and the Iraq War, etc. Between 2017 and 2019 she was based in London as senior political writer covering broader European affairs including populism and Russian influence operations. Her recent books include *Influence Operations* (from Chuokoron Shinsha, Japan, 2019.) A 1987 graduate of Sophia University in Tokyo, she received a Bachelor of Arts in English language. She earned her master's degree of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (MALD) at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (USA) in 1996.

Tsutomu ISHIAI

Tsutomu Ishiai has been a senior staff writer since April 2022 at the *Asahi Shimbun*, a leading daily newspaper in Japan, after serving as Foreign News Editor, London Bureau Chief, and Deputy Managing Editor, both in Tokyo and Osaka HQs. He has been a diplomatic correspondent since 1996 with extensive experience in international affairs throughout his time in Washington DC, Cairo, London, and Tokyo. During his career, he has conducted exclusive interviews with leaders and heads of state. In March 2015 he organized a speech event and visit to the *Asahi* by German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her visit to Japan. He was chosen as a member of the Dialogue among Civilizations between Japan and the Islamic World (2002-12) as well as a member of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group conferences. He has also covered domestic politics and Japan's diplomatic policies since 2001 as political reporter in Tokyo and as chief correspondent at Japan's Foreign Ministry. He has lectured at universities and think tanks in Japan on diplomatic and defense issues in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. He serves as a moderator in the annual peace conferences "A path towards nuclear abolition," co-hosted by the *Asahi Shimbun* and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki since 2022.

Ren ITO

Ren Ito co-founded Sakana AI in 2023, a Tokyo-based AI company creating a new kind of foundational AI models based on nature-inspired intelligence. Sakana AI has become Japan's fastest unicorn after one year in business, backed by Nvidia and a broad spectrum of Japanese enterprises including the three Japanese Megabanks (MUFG, SMBC, Mizuho) and other leading companies in each of Japan's industry sectors. Prior to Sakana, Ren took the lead on the global expansion of Mercari, Japan's first unicorn start-up running the fastest-growing marketplace app. He served as CEO of Mercari Europe, as well as successfully orchestrated its IPO, valuing the company at \$6bn. Before entering into the tech business, Ren spent 15 years as a Japanese diplomat where he worked on the security alliance with the US, negotiated a free trade agreement with the EU, and represented Japan at the World Bank board. Ren continues to be involved in public policy debates on technological innovation and international politics as Senior Fellow at New York University (NYU) School of Law. Ren received his Master of Laws from NYU School of Law (2004) and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Tokyo (2001) and is admitted to practice law in New York. Ren also holds a Master of Arts in East Asian Studies from Stanford University (2005).

Takashi ITO

Takashi Ito is Corporate Executive and Senior General Manager of the Corporate Economic Security Division of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. He is the first person to take charge of this position upon Mitsubishi Electric establishing the Corporate Economic Security Division (Oct. 2020). He analyzes the risks faced by Mitsubishi Electric due to policies and regulations backed by the security of major powers, as well as the rise of geopolitical risks. He actively disseminates Mitsubishi Electric's economic security activities through the media and symposiums, and handles individual consultations from companies. Having joined Mitsubishi Electric in 1986, he began his career developing an international legal framework for the Japanese semiconductor industry. From 1995 to 1997, he was dispatched to the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), where he worked mainly on strengthening cooperation between European governments and business circles and Japanese business circles. He received his law degree from Keio University.

Yoko IWAMA

Yoko Iwama is Professor of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). She graduated from Kyoto University and earned her PhD in Law at the same university. After serving as Special Assistant at the Japanese Embassy in Germany, she joined GRIPS in 2000, and was appointed Professor in 2009. Her specialty is international security and European diplomatic history. She has served on numerous government committees including the Council on Reconstruction of a Legal Basis for Security (2006-07, 2013-14). Her publications include: *The Global Nuclear Order of 1968 and West Germany* (Kaku no 1968nen Taisei to Nishi Doitsu) (Yuhikaku, 2021); *Joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty: Deterrence, Non-Proliferation and the American Alliance*, ed. with John Baylis (Routledge 2018). Recently published English articles include: "A World On the Brink: The Conditions for Rebuilding the Postwar Order: A Strategy of Linking NATO and the Indo-Pacific Order," No.72, *Diplomacy*, Sept. 9, 2022, "Nuclear peace a priority ahead of Hiroshima G7 Summit," *East Asia Forum Quarterly* vol.14, no. 3, July -Sep 2022 issue, "Time to Think Big: Japan's Surprising Response to the War in Ukraine," *Global Asia*, June 2022 Vol.17 No.2.

Isao KANO

Having joined Mitsubishi Corporation in 1984, Mr. Kano was posted in Vienna, Düsseldorf, Brisbane, Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, and London. In 2016, he became senior vice president & COO of the Mineral Resources Trading Division, and Chairman & CEO of Mitsubishi Corporation RtM International Pte Ltd, Singapore. In 2018, he became regional CEO for Europe and managing director of Mitsubishi International (Europe) plc. Mr. Kano served as the president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK, vice chairman of the Nippon Club and as a director of the Japan House London Trust. He has participated in JCIE's UK-Japan 21st Century Group since 2018. He has also been a member of JCIE's Board of Directors since 2022. He currently holds the following responsibilities:

- Executive Committee Member, The Trilateral Commission Asia Pacific Group
- Japanese Executive Director, UK-Japan 21st Century Group
- Japanese member of Foundation Council of Japanese-German Center Berlin
- Japanese Director, Japanese-German Forum
- Member of Steering Committee, the Korea- Japan Forum
- Director, Executive Committee on Global Health and Human Security
- Director, Friends of the Global Fund, Japan (FGFJ)
- Chair, Roundtable on Japan's Migration Policy

Mr. Kano is a graduate of Hitotsubashi University with a BA in Commerce and Business Administration, and also completed Harvard Business School's LFO (Leadership in Financial Organizations) program in 2012.

Yoriyuki KASHIWAGI

Yoriyuki Kashiwagi graduated from the Faculty of Law of Hokkaido University, and joined Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. in 1986. He has served as Vice President of the Planning and Managing Division of the Passenger Sales Department since 2011, and as Senior Vice President of the Kyushu Region Sales Office since 2013. In April 2016, he was appointed Executive Officer of Japan Airlines Co., Ltd., concurrently serving as Deputy Senior Vice President of the Passenger Sales Department, Senior Vice President of the International Passenger Sales Department, Senior Vice President of the Web Sales Department, and Senior Vice President of the Eastern Japan Sales Office. From April 2020, as Executive Officer of Japan Airlines Co., Ltd., his responsibility includes overseeing the Secretary Department, Policy Operations Department, and the Comprehensive Policy Center. Since April 2024, he is in charge of the Executive Secretariat, Government Affairs as Senior Managing Executive Officer, and since July of the same year, he has concurrently served as the President of JAL Aviofuture Lab Co., Ltd.

Izuru KATO

Izuru Kato is President and Chief Economist at Totan Research Co., Ltd., a company affiliated with the Tokyo Tanshi Co., Ltd., which is one of the major interbank money brokers established in 1909. Mr. Kato graduated from the International Economics Division, Faculty of Economics, Yokohama National University in 1988. He joined Tokyo Tanshi, where he worked as a money market broker and served concurrently as an economist for the company since 1997. He has held his current position since 2013. He is a major watcher of central banks, acting as an economic commentator on TV programs, magazines and newspapers. His works include *Bernanke's FED* (2006), *No Exit for the Bank of Japan* (2014), *The Tokyo Money Market* (2019), and *Digital World and Finance* (2020).

Yoko KAWAMURA

Yoko Kawamura is Professor of International Relations at the Department of Cross-Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University. She studied at Waseda University and the University of Tokyo, where she earned her PhD in Arts and Sciences. After working as Research Assistant for German Studies at the University of Tokyo, she has been teaching at Seikei University since 2000. Her research and education cover international cultural relations and cultural policy, including cultural relations policy of Germany. She presently serves as President of the Japan Society for Intercultural Studies and Board Member at the Japan Association for Cultural Policy Research. She has issued many publications, including *Beyond the Paradox of <Cultural Diplomacy>: The Making of German Auswärtige Kulturpolitik* (2024), and *Studies on the History of International Cultural Relations* (co-edition, 2013). Prof. Kawamura observed the 2017 German Bundestag election as a member of *DAAD-Wahlbeobachterreise*. She also commits herself to cultural administration and citizens' associations at her local community in Tokyo.

Minoru KIUCHI

Minoru Kiuchi was appointed Minister of State for Economic Security in October 2024. He has played a pivotal role in German-Japanese inter-parliamentary exchange for decades as former Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and current member of the Japanese House of Representatives for the Liberal Democratic Party. He partially grew up in Bonn, Germany, and during his career as a diplomat (1989-2002) spent an additional five years in Augsburg and Bonn. As a result, he speaks German fluently. Today, Kiuchi serves as General Secretary of the German-Japanese Parliamentary Friendship Group, routinely visits Germany to maintain relations with German politicians, hosts German politicians in Japan, and contributes to projects and events fostering closer relations between Germany and Japan. Since leaving the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and becoming a politician in 2003, Kiuchi has served as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, State Minister for the Environment, and Parliamentary State Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 2018, he was awarded the Great Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his contributions to German-Japanese relations.

Makiko KOMATSU

Makiko Komatsu is President and Representative Director of Komatsu Spring Industrial Co., Ltd. She joined Komatsu Spring Industrial Co. (founded in 1941), a manufacturer of springs for precision equipment such as electronic devices, medical devices, and automobiles, and was appointed Director in charge of general affairs and accounting in 2003. She took over the helm of the company in 2014 succeeding the then chairperson in his position. She is a member of the Labor Policy Council of the Ministry of Health, a member of the Labor Committee at the Japan Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Labor Screening Committee at the Tokyo Labor Office. Komatsu Spring Industrial Co., Ltd. has been selected as one of the 300 most energetic small and medium-sized manufacturing companies (selected by the Small and Medium Enterprise Selection Committee) and authorized as one of "The Driving Company for the regional future" by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and received a visit by the Emperor of Japan in 2007.

Yutaka MATSUO

Yutaka Matsuo graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1997 and earned a PhD in Engineering in 2002. He has held research positions at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and served as a visiting researcher at Stanford University. Since 2007, he has been Associate Professor, and since 2019, Professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Engineering. His research specializes in artificial intelligence, deep learning, and web mining. He has been the chairman of the Japan Deep Learning Association since 2017, an outside director for SoftBank Group Corporation since 2019, and since 2023, an expert member of the Council for Achieving New Capitalism and the chair of the AI Strategy Conference.

Norihide MIYOSHI

Norihide Miyoshi is a freelance journalist. He graduated from the University of Tokyo with a degree in correlative social sciences. He joined the *Yomiuri Shimbun* in 1982, serving as Correspondent in Bangkok and Phnom Penh (1990-93), and as Correspondent in Berlin for a total of nine years and five months (1997-01, 2006-08, and 2009-13). He completed the Japan-US Relations Program at Harvard University (2005-06). He is currently a freelance journalist in charge of international affairs, with a focus on Europe. He is the author of *Correspondent's Report on PKO in Cambodia* (Aki Shobo), *Germany Clearing Up Postwar Taboos* (ibid.), *Reviving 'Nation' and 'History'* (Fuyo Shobo Publishing), *Merkel and Right-Tilting Germany* (Kobun-sha), *Europe turning serious-minded* (Gento-sha) and *Ukraine Shock* (Soushi-sha). His book *German Risk* (Kobun-sha) won the 25th Shichihei Yamamoto Award Special Prize, and was translated and published in Taiwan. He is also editor of *Biography of diplomat OKAZAKI Hisahiko* (Ikuho-sha), *The Bonds of Japan and the US*, and *Biography of diplomat KATO Ryoza* (Yoshida Shoten).

Masahiko MORI

Masahiko Mori is President of DMG MORI Co., Ltd. He was born in Nara, Japan in 1961. After studying mechanical engineering at Kyoto University, Japan, he worked at ITOCHU Corporation as a salesperson of textile machineries and advanced composite materials for eight years. Since 1999 at the age of 37, he has been president of Mori Seiki Co. Ltd. He completed his Dr. Eng degree from the University of Tokyo in 2003. Since 2009, a collaboration began with Gildemeister in Germany and in October 2013, both companies integrated their names to further strengthen the "DMG MORI" brand name. Since May 2018, he has been Chairman of the Supervisory Board, DMG MORI Aktiengesellschaft. Dr. Mori serves as President / CEO of DMG MORI Group. He also serves as Vice-President of the Japan Machine Tool Builders Association (JMTBA), fellow of International Academy for Production Engineering (CIRP), board member of Kyoto University Innovation Capital, and a member of the Kyoto University Administrative Council.

Keisuke MURAKAMI

Keisuke Murakami is Director General for Public Service Group at the Digital Agency of Japan. He leads the DX of governmental services in Japan; for example, issuing and promoting the National Security Card called "My Number Card" to all Japanese people, launching the various online-based public services, and expanding the utilization of My Number Card by private services, and so on.

He joined the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in 1990 and had been involved in the information industry policy for ten years. He led the establishment of the Cool Japan Initiative, negotiation of the international convention of the climate change, and set up the Japanese Feed-In Tariff System for renewable energy. From 2016, he was in charge of the Local Revitalization Promotion at the Cabinet Office and he was recognized for his innovative work for the promotion of local economies by being awarded as one of the Agile 50 by WEF and Apolitical. He joined the Digital Agency in 2021 as one of the starting members.

Masaharu NAKAGAWA

Masaharu Nakagawa graduated from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1973. During his time at the university, he realized that America's development stems from the dynamism born from the diversity of immigrants. After graduating from university, he worked at the Japan Foundation, and in 1983 became a member of the Mie Prefectural Assembly (3 terms, 12 years). In October 1996, he became a member of the House of Representatives (9 consecutive terms). During the Democratic Party administration, he served as Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Minister of Disaster Management, Minister of Gender Equality, and minister in charge of Policy for Foreign-born Permanent Residents. In the Diet, he served as Acting Chairman of the Diet Members' League for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education, Chairman of the Diet Members' League for Promoting Women's Active Participation in Politics, and Acting Chairman of the Japan-EU Parliamentary Friendship League. He also worked hard to achieve peace in Myanmar as Chairman of the Diet Members' League for Supporting Myanmar's Democratization.

Tetsuo NARUKAWA

Tetsuo Narukawa joined the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ—currently Mizuho Bank) after graduating from Keio University with a degree in Economics in 1974. He held key positions, including Senior Deputy General Manager of the Credit Department and Senior Manager of the Personnel Department. In 1997, he was appointed President of Industriebank von Japan (Germany), and in 2001, he became General Manager of the Corporate Banking Division at IBJ. In 2002, following the bank merger of IBJ, DKB and Fuji Bank to form the Mizuho Financial Group, he was appointed Executive Officer and Head of the Credit Risk Management Department of Mizuho Bank. He furthered his career as Managing Director with Mizuho Bank until 2006, after which he moved to Kowa Real Estate Co., Ltd., where he served as Senior Managing Director. He later served as Vice President and subsequently as President and CEO. He also served as President and CEO of Nippon Steel Kowa Real Estate Co., Ltd. following its merger with Nippon Steel City Produce. Since June 2015, he has been Director of Okasan Securities Co., Ltd. and, since June 2018, Director of Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd. In addition, he became Deputy Chairman of the German-Japanese Business Association (DJW) in 2018 and President of the Japanese-German Society of Yokohama in 2021.

Shinichi SATO

Shinichi Sato is Senior Manager of the Overseas External Affairs & Advocacy Department, Marketing & External Affairs Division of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. He joined Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. in 1991, first working in the administration department for Chemical Plants, and moving to the Domestic Sales Division of Chemical Plants in 1994. He was engaged in overseas sales of chemical plants from 1998 to 2019, mainly conducting sales of chemical and fertilizer plants in the Middle East and Central Asia area. In 2019, he was assigned to the then International Strategic Department 1 of the Marketing Division at the headquarters of Kawasaki, then appointed Senior Manager of the International Strategic Department 2 in 2021. He assumed his current position in 2024.

Mitsuko SHINO

Mitsuko Shino is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in Germany. Ambassador Shino graduated from Hitotsubashi University with a law degree and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987. She held several key roles, including Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Germany and in Poland, Director of the APEC Division of the Economic Affairs Bureau, Minister at the Embassy of Japan in Italy, Director of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division of the General Foreign Policy Bureau, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Iceland. In 2016, she was appointed Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva. After serving as Deputy Press Secretary, Director-General for Cultural Affairs, and Chief of Protocol, she has served as Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nation since September 2022. In September 2024, she was appointed to the current position and will be posted to Berlin in November.

Atsushi TAKEDA

Atsushi Takeda was elected President and CEO of ITOCHU Research Institute, Inc. in April 2023. Previously, he was responsible for providing top management support to ITOCHU Group on macroeconomic analysis of domestic and international politics and economies since 2009 when he joined ITOCHU Corporation. His professional areas include global macroeconomic analysis of politics and economies, foreign exchange markets, and trade policy. Before joining ITOCHU Corporation in 2009, he served in various executive positions at the Mizuho Bank, Japan Center for Economic Research, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Research Institute (currently Mizuho Research & Technologies), and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (currently Mizuho Bank) which he had joined in 1990. Mr. Takeda earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics from the Department of Engineering, Osaka University, and graduated from the Graduate School of Economics, Hosei University in 2022.

Kenji TOTOKI

Kenji Totoki is Executive Officer and General Manager of the Marketing and External Affairs Division of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. He joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (currently Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) in 1989, where he successively held various positions such as Director of the Public Relations Office of Minister's Secretariat, Director of Fair Trade Division, Business Environment Department, Transaction Division, Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, and Director of Middle East and Africa Division, Trade Policy Bureau. After the secondment to Nippon Export and Investment Insurance in 2013, he worked at the Secretariat of Headquarters for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games at the Cabinet Secretariat, coordinating government measures for the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games from 2015 to 2019. He then served as Director-General for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy of the Cabinet Office in 2019, and was reappointed as Councilor at the Cabinet Secretariat from 2020 to 2022 to support the operation of the Olympic and Paralympic Games under COVID-19. Retiring from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in 2022, he served as Advisor to Sompo Japan Insurance Inc., and joined Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. in 2023, holding his current position since 2024.

Takeshi YAGI

Takeshi Yagi was appointed President of the Japanese-German Center Berlin in March 2023. He served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Federal Republic of Germany from 2016 to 2020 after having served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of India and to the Kingdom of Bhutan from 2012 to 2015. Ambassador Yagi entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1977 after graduating from the University of Tokyo. His previous positions include First Secretary then Counselor at the Embassy of Japan in Germany (1992-94); Director, Eastern Europe Division, European and Oceanian Affairs Bureau (1996-97); Director, Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau (1997-99); Counsellor then Minister at the Embassy of Japan in the US (1999-2001); and Minister at the Embassy of Japan in Germany (2001-03). He also served as Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Delegation to the OECD (2007-10) and Director-General of the Economic Affairs Bureau (2010-12).

Hidenao YANAGI

Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in Germany. Ambassador Yanagi studied at the University of Tokyo and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon graduation in 1982. After being charged with the relations on the Korean Peninsula and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty among others in the Ministry, he served as First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Germany. Returning to Japan, he was appointed Director of the First Analysis Division of the International Information Bureau, and then Director of the Planning Division of the Foreign Policy Bureau before assuming the position of Minister at the Embassy of Japan in India and later the Embassy of Japan in Germany. After his appointments as Deputy Director General of Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau/Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department and Consul General in Munich, he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Jordan. From November 2020 to October 2024 he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Naoya YOSHINO

Naoya Yoshino is the Tokyo-based Chief of *The NIKKEI Shimbun* international news center editorial division. He has been a political reporter and chief editor with *The NIKKEI* for over 30 years, during which he has interviewed 16 Japanese prime ministers, from Hosokawa to Ishiba, and covered their finance and economic ministries. He served as a Washington correspondent from 2012 to 2017, reporting on the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections. He has been hosting his own radio and podcast program in Japanese since last June where he engaged in discussions with top Japanese politicians and offered his listeners an insider's perspective on political power.

Profiles of German Participants

[CHAIRMAN]

Matthias NASS

Matthias Nass is Chief International Correspondent of the German weekly *DIE ZEIT*. He has a weekly column on ZEIT Online. Mr. Nass was Secretary of the German Association for Asian Studies and Editor of the quarterly *Asien* (1978-82). He attended the Hamburg School of Journalism (1982-83). He was a member of the foreign policy staff of *DIE ZEIT* (1983-90), deputy Political Editor (1990-94), Managing Editor (1994-97) and deputy Editor-in-Chief (1998-2010). He studied History, Chinese Studies and Political Science at the Universities of Göttingen, Hawaii and Hamburg.

Recent book publications by Mr. Nass are:

- *Countdown in Korea. Der gefährlichste Konflikt der Welt und seine Hintergründe (Countdown in Korea. The world's most dangerous conflict and its backgrounds)*, C.H. Beck, Munich 2017
- *Der Elblotse. Helmut Schmidts Hamburg. Hoffmann und Campe, Hamburg 2019*
- *Drachentanz. Chinas Aufstieg zur Weltmacht und was er für uns bedeutet (Dragon dance. Chinas's raise as a world power and what it means for us)* C.H. Beck, Munich 2021
- *Kollision. China, die USA und der Kampf um die weltpolitische Vorherrschaft im Indopazifik (Collision. China, the United States and the Struggle for Political Domination in the Indopacific)* C.H. Beck, Munich 2023

[PARTICIPANTS]

Tobias B. BACHERLE

Tobias B. Bacherle is elected Member of the German Bundestag on behalf of Alliance 90/The Greens since September 2021. As MP, he is Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs where he serves as the Rapporteur for the regions of East Asia and North Africa. Moreover, he is the Coordinator of the Committee on Digital Affairs and Deputy Member of the Committee on European Union Affairs. In addition, he is Member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Deputy Member of the Subcommittee on the United Nations, International Organizations and Civilian Crisis Prevention. Prior to his mandate in the German Bundestag, Bacherle was elected to the Sindelfingen City Council in 2014 as its youngest member. From 2019 to 2021, he worked as the leader of the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group in the City Council in his hometown of Sindelfingen.

Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT

Verena Blechinger-Talcott is Executive Vice President of the Freie Universität Berlin and Professor of Japanese Politics and Political Economy. Since the end of May 2024, she also is Vice President of the Board of Executives of JDZB. She studied Political Science, Japanese Studies and Law in Munich, Kyoto and Tokyo. She received her M.A. in Japanese Studies in 1991 and her PhD in Political Science in 1997, both from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich). After working as a lecturer at LMU Munich (1993-97), she joined the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo, in 1997, where she focused on comparative research of Japanese politics and international relations. From 2001-2002, she also was Deputy Director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies. In 2002, she was appointed Advanced Research Fellow in the Program on US-Japan Relations at Harvard University, and from 2003-2004, she was Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Hamilton College, Clinton (NY). In 2004, she joined the Freie Universität Berlin as Professor for Japanese Politics and Political Economy. At Freie Universität Berlin, Verena Blechinger-Talcott was Dean of the Department of History and Cultural Studies (2007-2011) and Director of the Center for Area Studies (2009-2018). From 2012-2020, she was Founding Director of FU Berlin's Graduate School of East Asian Studies which was funded until 2019 through the German Federal Government's Excellence Initiative. Since 2018, she has been a Member of FUB's Executive Board: From 2018-2022 as Vice President for International Affairs, and since 2022 as Executive Vice President. Verena Blechinger-Talcott is a member of the editorial advisory boards of *Social Science Japan Journal* (University of Tokyo), the *European Journal of East Asian Studies* (Brill Publishers) and *Japan Forum* (British Association for Japanese Studies). From 2016-2024, she was a member and later Chair of the Advisory Board of the German Institute for Japanese Studies, and was, from 2020-2023, President of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS). In 2023, she was elected Deputy Chairwomen of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V. Verena Blechinger-Talcott has written and edited several books and numerous articles on Japanese politics, international relations and political economy.

Karl-Rudolf KORTE

Karl-Rudolf Korte is Professor of “The Political System of the Federal Republic of Germany and Modern Theories of State” at the University of Duisburg-Essen. In 1998, he received an award for the best habilitation at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich). Thereafter, he held positions as a visiting professor in Trier, Cologne, Munich, and Duisburg. Moreover, his academic career included research stays in Tokyo, St. Gallen, and Washington D.C. where he was a fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in 2004 and 2008. He founded the NRW School of Governance in 2006, which he has directed since then. From April 2010 to September 2017, he additionally served as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen. From 2013 to 2015, he acted as Chairman of the German Association of Political Science. Since 2019, he has been a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in Salzburg/Austria. Since 2021, he has been Vice President of the German Association of University Professors and Lecturers (Deutscher Hochschulverband). Since 2022 he has been chairman of the international and interdisciplinary scientific advisory board of the new non-partisan federal foundation “Bundeskanzler Helmut Kohl Stiftung”, Berlin. His research interests include elections, political parties, governments, and political communication. Karl-Rudolf Korte has become known to the wider public through his political analyses in daily newspapers, magazines, and on television for 20 years. During domestic political events, he regularly analyses election outcomes and provides interpretations of political developments as an expert for the public broadcasters ZDF, WDR and Phoenix. He is the managing editor of the *Journal of Political Science / Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* since 2011. In his monograph (“Gesichter der Macht – Über die Gestaltungspotenziale der Bundespräsidenten”, 2019), Karl-Rudolf Korte focuses on the specific role of the head of state in Germany and the opportunities of this political office to influence political decision-making. His book on corona politics, *Coronacracy. Demokratisches Regieren in Ausnahmezeiten* (Campus Verlag Frankfurt/New York), has been widely received. This year, he has co-published the book *Heuristiken des politischen Entscheidens* (Suhrkamp Verlag Berlin). Currently a monograph on the upcoming Bundestag elections: *Wählermärkte. Electoral behaviour and government policy in the Berlin Republic* (Campus Verlag Frankfurt/New York) 2024

Paul LUKOWICZ

Paul Lukowicz is a full professor of AI at the RPTU in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and concurrently serves as the Scientific Director at DFKI Kaiserslautern, where he oversees the Embedded Intelligence group. He has previously held the positions of Full Professor of Embedded Systems at the University of Passau, Germany, and Full Professor in the Computer Engineering Department at the University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology in Innsbruck, Austria. His research interests include context-aware ubiquitous and wearable systems, quantum computing, and human-AI interaction, encompassing sensing, machine learning, system architectures, large-scale to edge systems, and applications. Currently, Paul Lukowicz is engaged in a multitude of German national and EU projects. He serves as the coordinator of the HumanE AI-Net, a comprehensive networking initiative involving over 50 European partners, and acts as an editor for numerous scientific publications. He has contributed to over 50 program committees (including TPC Chair) at high-caliber international conferences across the spectrum of his research area.

Gerda MEUER

Gerda Meuer is a journalist and was part of the management board of Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle for almost 20 years, most recently as Managing Director of Programming at Deutsche Welle. She has also worked in the media as an editor, reporter, foreign correspondent in Japan (5 years in Tokyo) and correspondent for EU and NATO in Brussels. She has been a member of various supervisory boards such as the German press agency dpa, the Bonn Institute for Constructive Journalism and Member of the Foundation Council of JDZB since 2018. She is now honorary chairwoman of the board of the Berlin City Museums association. Ms. Meuer is interested in the history and development of Japan and German-Japanese relations and curious about the latest developments. She is still convinced that international exchange is a necessity, especially in these turbulent times, and that it can lead to a better understanding of cultures.

Michael MÜLLER

Michael Müller has been a Member of the German Bundestag for the SPD (Social Democratic Party) since 2021. After visiting secondary school and graduating from the technical college for economics and administration, he worked as a self-employed printer until 2011. Mr. Müller became a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in 1981. In 1996, he became a Member of the Berlin House of Representatives. In 2001, Mr. Müller became Parliamentary Chairman of the SPD, until he was appointed Mayor and Senator for Urban Development and Environment in 2011. In 2014, he was elected as the Governing Mayor of Berlin, including being Senator for Culture. Mr. Müller was re-elected as Governing Mayor in 2016 and was Senator for Science and Research. In 2017, he became President of the Bundesrat for one year. Since October 2021, Mr. Müller is a Member of the German Bundestag (Parliament). He is a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and is the SPD rapporteur on East-Asia and the Middle East. Furthermore, Mr. Müller is the Chairman of the German-Japanese parliamentary group and the commission that evaluates the German engagement in Afghanistan.

Frank MÜLLER-ROSENTRITT

Since 2017 Frank Müller-Rosentritt has been a member of the German Bundestag for the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP). As expert in banking, he is the rapporteur for banking regulation in the Finance Committee for the liberals. He is also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, where he is responsible for Asia covering Japan, the ASEAN states, India, Bhutan, Hongkong, Taiwan, China, Korea as well as New Zealand and Australia and Afghanistan. He is also an expert on Israel and on Jewish life in Germany and abroad and Vice President of the German Group of Liberal International. Frank Müller-Rosentritt was born in 1982 in Chemnitz. After his military service in the army medical service, he did a training as officer in reserve in the German Air Force. From 2002-2005 he studied at the Cooperative State University Baden-Württemberg where he graduated in business administration with a focus on banking regulation and capital market. He started with Deutsche Bank AG in 2002; 2005 Deutsche Bank AG in New York; from 2005 to 2010 at Deutsche Bank Baden-Baden and since 2011 Head of Private Banking at Deutsche Bank in Dresden. Additionally, since 2015, he is a Managing Partner of several real estate asset management companies.

Julia MÜNCH

Julia Münch has been the Secretary General of the Japanese-German Center Berlin since October 2020. She studied Japanese Studies, Business and Psychology (M.A.) in Göttingen and Bonn and received her PhD (Dr. rer. Oec.) at the Mercator School of Management/University of Duisburg-Essen. She was Managing Director and Executive Board Member of the Japanese-German Business Association e. V. (DJW) from 2007 to 2020 and is engaged in various non-profit associations, e. g. as the President of the Foundation for German-Japanese Cultural Exchange e. V. and as a Member of the Board of the Association of German-Japanese Societies e. V. (VDJG).

Daniela SCHWARZER

Daniela Schwarzer is a leading expert on European and international affairs and has had a 20-year career at renowned think tanks, foundations and universities. Since 2023, she is a member of the Executive Board of the Bertelsmann Stiftung. Previously, she served as Executive Director for Europe and Central Asia at the Open Society Foundations, the world's largest foundation working to strengthen the rule of law, democracy and open societies. In 2021, she was appointed honorary professor of political science at Freie Universität Berlin. In autumn 2022, she was a visiting professor at Harvard University, with which she has also been affiliated as a senior fellow. From 2016 to 2021, Daniela Schwarzer ran the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP) as Director and CEO. Prior to that, she served on the executive team of the German Marshall Fund of the United States as research director and lead its Berlin office and Europe program. From 2004 to 2013, she worked for the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, where she headed the Europe research group beginning in 2008. From 1999 to 2004, she was an opinion page editor and France correspondent for the *Financial Times Deutschland*. Daniela Schwarzer is regularly consulted as an expert and policy advisor. She was co-rapporteur of the working group on EU reform and enlargement, convened by the French and German governments, which submitted its report in September 2023. From 2020 to 2022, served as special advisor to the High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell. She also advised France and Poland during their respective EU presidencies and was a consultant to the French government. She is a member of the supervisory boards of BNP Paribas and Covivio, an honorary board member of DGAP and a non-executive board member of the Jacques Delors Institute/Centre (Paris, Berlin) and a Council member of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). In 2017, she was inducted into the French Legion of Honour.

Petra SIGMUND

Petra Sigmund studied sinology, political science and economic policy studies at Heidelberg University, the Free University of Berlin and the People's University in Beijing. She joined the Foreign Service in 1994 and has held various positions since then. From 2004 to 2006, she was Head of the Trade Promotion Office at the German Embassy in Beijing. Between 2006-2010, she was in charge of EU relations at the German Federal Chancellery in Berlin. She was the spokeswoman of the German Embassy in Paris between 2010 and 2013. From 2015 to 2017, Ms. Sigmund held the post of Head of Division for East Asia at the Foreign Office, before her appointment to Deputy Director General for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific (2017-2019) and the promotion to Director General for Asia and the Pacific (2019-2024). Since August 2024, she has been the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan. She speaks German, English, French and Chinese.

Sabine STRICKER-KELLERER

Sabine Stricker-Kellerer is an international lawyer with her firm SSK Asia. She is advising European clients on their business activities in Asia, with focus on China. In 1985, she was the first European lawyer to set up an office in China. Today, she divides her time between Asia and Europe. She also acts as arbitrator in German Asian international business disputes, such as in her capacity as Member of the Panel of Arbitrators of various Asian arbitration institutions. Dr. Stricker-Kellerer is the German Co-Chair of the German-Chinese Dialogue Forum and Member of the Advisory Board of the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS).

Gabriele VOGT

Gabriele Vogt holds the Chair in Japanese Studies and serves as Director to the Department of Asian Studies at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich). She received her PhD in Japanese Studies from the University of Hamburg in 2002, and an M.A. from LMU Munich (Japanese Studies, Political Science, Sociology) in 1998. She previously held appointments at the University of Hamburg, the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ Tokyo), Sophia University, the University of the Ryukyus and Cornell University, and was a Visiting Professor at Waseda University, Kyushu University, and Chuo University. Among others, she serves as editorial board member to the *Social Science Japan Journal* (SSJJ) and the *European Journal of East Asian Studies* (EJEAS), as liaison officer to the German Academic Scholarship Foundation, member to the board of examiners at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and member to the academic advisory board of DIJ Tokyo. Gabriele Vogt's research covers the areas of political economy in the context of demographic transition and international labor migration, as well as local politics and social movements. She is the Principal Investigator of two multi-year research projects, which both receive funding by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In the project "Demography and Democracy: How Population Aging Alters Democracy – The Case of Japan" she examines how population aging impacts political participation, representation and policymaking in Japan. The project "Vigilance in Japan's neighborhoods during the COVID-19 pandemic", which is part of the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) on "Cultures of Vigilance" (SFB 1369), studies the effects of pandemic countermeasures beyond legal regulations. Journal publications in these contexts include: "The Aging Democracy: Demographic Effects, Political Legitimacy, and the Quest for Generational Pluralism." In: *Perspectives on Politics* (2024, with Yosuke Buchmeier), <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592723000981> (open access); and "Sanitizing the national body: COVID-19 and the revival of Japan's 'Closed Country' strategy." In: *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* (2022, with Sian Qin), <https://doi.org/10.1177/01171968221125482> (open access).

Johann WADEPHUL

Johann Wadephul is a Member of the German Bundestag for the CDU/CSU (Christian-Democratic Union/Christian Social Union) since 2009 and since 2017 Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group for Foreign Affairs, Defence Policy and the Council of Europe and as such Member of the Executive Board of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group. He studied Law at the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel where he obtained a doctor's degree in 1996. After graduation he worked as a lawyer. Since 2009 he is a solicitor specialized in health care and social law. Mr. Wadephul joined the CDU and the "Junge Union" (youth section of the CDU/CSU) in 1982. From 1992-96 he was Chairman of the Schleswig-Holstein branch of the "Junge Union" and Party Chairman of the CDU branch Schleswig-Holstein from 2000-2002. From 2000 to 2009, he was Member of Parliament of the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein and Chairman of the CDU Parliamentary Group in the parliament of the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein. Since 2010 Mr. Wadephul is a Member of the Federal Executive Board of the CDU Germany. He is also Chairman of the group of CDU parliamentarians from Schleswig-Holstein in the German Bundestag. Mr. Wadephul is Chairman of the German Delegation to NATO's Parliamentary Assembly and Chairman of the Parliamentary Group's Working Group on China as well as the Working Group on the Western Balkans. He is also Chairman of the German Parliamentary Friendship Group for the Southern Caucasus.

Franz WALDENBERGER

Franz Waldenberger is Director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tokyo since October 2014. During his term of office at the DIJ, he is on leave from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich), where he holds a Professorship for Japanese Economy. He studied Economics in Heidelberg, Tokyo and Cologne. He received his diploma in Economics in 1986, his PhD in 1990 and his Habilitation in 1996 from the Faculty of Economics and Social Science of Cologne University. After positions as research assistant at the University of Cologne (1986-89) and research associate at the German Monopolies Commission (1989-92), he joined the German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo, where he focused on comparative research of the Japanese economy (1992-1997). In 1997, he became Professor at the Japan Centre of LMU Munich. He has been invited as visiting professor to the University of Tokyo (2001/2002), Osaka City University (2002), Hitotsubashi University (2006), and Tsukuba University (2008, 2009, 2010 to 2012). In 2003, he was Shimomura Research Fellow at the Research Institute of Capital Formation, Development Bank of Japan. He has written and edited several books and numerous articles on the Japanese economy. Franz Waldenberger has also been very active in bringing the academic world in fruitful contact with the world of business and works in various honorary capacities for a more active co-operation.

Hanno D. WENTZLER

Hanno D. Wentzler was a Member of the Freudenberg Executive Council and Chairman of the Freudenberg corporate responsibility initiative and was the Regional Representative Asia for the Freudenberg Group (2006-2016). After his studies of Business Administration at Boston University, he joined J.P. Morgan in 1981: first as Assistant Vice President for Correspondent Banking in New York and in 1985 as Assistant Vice President for Corporate Finance in Frankfurt. His career with the Freudenberg Group started in 1986 at Freudenberg Simrit in Austria where Mr. Wentzler served as Executive Vice President Sales. From 1989 to 1994 he was Executive Vice President Industrial Sales at Freudenberg Seals & Vibration Control Technologies in Weinheim (Germany). Before assuming his position at FCS, he was President and CEO at Klüber Lubrication München KG (1994-2004). Mr. Wentzler was a Member of the Freudenberg Executive Council and continues as Chairman of Freudenberg Help e. V., Chairman of Freudenberg e² initiative and was the Regional Representative Asia for the Freudenberg Group (2006-2016). He is Speaker of the 87. Baden-Baden Entrepreneurs' Talk (Baden-Badener Unternehmgespräche), Member of the Board of Trustees Bamberg Symphonic Orchestra, Member of the Board of Foundation "Neues Konzerthaus München". Furthermore, is active in numerous board and advisory positions.

Gerhard WIESHEU

Gerhard Wiesheu became CEO of B. Metzler seel. Sohn & Co. AG on July 1, 2023. In this role, he is responsible for the bank's corporate strategy as well as the Private Banking division. Previously, Mr. Wiesheu was Head of the Asset Management division and responsible for Metzler's North American real estate business. He is a member of the Supervisory Boards at Nomura Asset Management Europe KVG mbH, DWS Investment GmbH, WWK Leben AG and WWK Allgemeine Versicherung AG. Before joining Metzler Bank in 2001, Mr. Wiesheu was managing director of Commerz International Capital Management GmbH (CICM) in Frankfurt. From 1995 to 1999, he was managing director of CICM (Japan) Ltd. in Tokyo. Mr. Wiesheu holds a degree in business administration from Landshut University of Applied Sciences. He also completed postgraduate studies in East Asian economics at the University of Duisburg-Essen in 1989. As a representative of Metzler Bank, Gerhard Wiesheu is actively committed to the financial sector. In October of 2020, he became President of the financial center initiative Frankfurt Main Finance e. V. In addition, Mr. Wiesheu has been a member of the Executive Board and the Assembly of Delegates of the Association of German Banks since July 2023. Mr. Wiesheu also holds numerous honorary posts. For example, he is a board member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Georg-Speyer-Haus. He was also elected Chairman of the Board of the German-Japanese Business Association (DJW) in Düsseldorf in 2011 and has chaired the Board of Trustees of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) since 2014. Mr. Wiesheu has accompanied several delegation trips of the German federal government and the German President over the years. For example, he accompanied German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on an official visit to Japan and Korea. He also served as spokesman for the economic delegation of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on his first trip to Asia, specifically Japan, and on another trip to Japan for first German-Japanese government consultations. In 2015, Gerhard Wiesheu was awarded the "Special Award of the Foreign Minister of Japan" in recognition of his long-standing commitment to German-Japanese relations. In 2022, he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit (First Class) of the Federal Republic of Germany, which he received for his extensive work in cultural, scientific and economic fields.

Christian WULFF

Christian Wulff works as a lawyer at the chambers Wulff & Coll. in Hamburg. As former Federal President of Germany (2010-2012) he is dedicated to the cause of the integration of people with a migration background and to interreligious dialogue. He is Chairman of the Foundation Board of Germany's Integration Foundation, Honorary President of Euro-Mediterranean-Arab Association (EMA) and Global Chairman of GASME (Global Alliance of small and midsize enterprises). He regularly represents Germany at the international level. Mr. Wulff is President of the German Choir Association and member of the Transatlantic Council on Migration. He acts as a patron of German Multiple Sklerosis Society. Mr. Wulff is member of the board of trustees of Felix-Nussbaum-Foundation and Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. As honorary doctor of different universities, such as the Tongji-University in Shanghai and the University of Tsukuba in Japan, he also works to foster Germany's relationship to Asia. He is a guest professor in Political Science at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Mr. Wulff was awarded the Helga and Edzard Reuter Foundation prize in 2020. He was honored by the Turkish Community in Germany and received the Award of Tolerance of the Protestant Academy Tutzing in 2014. In 2011, the Central Council of Jews in Germany honored him with the Leo Baeck Award. From 1998-2010 Mr. Wulff was deputy chairman of the CDU. From 2003-2010 he was Prime Minister of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony). Prior to that he was the head of the parliamentary group of the Christian Democrats in Niedersachsen.

Profiles of German-Japanese Young Leaders

Rieko FUKUTOME

Rieko Fukutome is Deputy Director of the National Personnel Authority, Government of Japan with experience in researching, drafting, reviewing and promoting understanding of various personnel rules and regulations affecting the working conditions of the entire national civil service. In recent years, as the main official in charge of the secretariat of the expert panel on achieving more flexible work styles for diverse human resources, she was involved in the complete process from the launch of the panel to the publication of its final report. Ms. Fukutome is eager to interact with other people and cultures, expressed through international educational experience at the master's degree in public policy at the Sciences Po Paris, as well as professional experience at the Human Resources Office of the OECD Paris. She has a personality of appreciating nature and arts, cultivated through the practice of the traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Naho KAWAUCHI

Naho Kawauchi is a bilingual contract manager with over 10 years of experience in contract management and export/import business. She holds a Master's degree in Women's Studies from Josai International University (Tokyo, Japan) and a Master's degree in Legal Studies from University of Illinois at Springfield (Illinois, USA). Ms. Kawauchi has a versatile skill set, ranging from contract review and drafting to corporate secretarial work and internal auditing. Fluent in both Japanese and English, she has successfully coordinated M&A projects and supported global teams from the Japanese law perspectives. Her strong interpersonal skills enable her to work effectively with diverse teams. Currently at Siemens K.K., she supports Digital Industries (digital transformation, IT/OT integration) and Smart Infrastructure businesses as a contract manager, providing legal advice to the businesses and managing all of legal documents. Previously, as a paralegal at TA Lawyers, GKJ, she supported companies oversea in expanding their business to Japan via visa support and local legal research and documents drafting. Ms. Kawauchi also has experience in logistics where she ensured smooth supply operations.

Jenny LEHMANN

Jenny Lehmann's field of expertise includes public affairs, political strategy, communication, and science policy. Since 2023, she is working as Deputy Head of the Science Policy department at Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, where she leads strategic initiatives and provides expert advice on science policy matters. Before joining Fraunhofer, Ms. Lehmann worked for the federal state of Berlin from 2016 to 2023. Among other positions, she served as Personal Assistant to the Governing Mayor of Berlin and Senator for Higher Education and Research. Additionally, she worked as a senior advisor for student affairs and equality in the science department. Ms. Lehmann has held positions at the German Bundestag, the Hessian Parliament, and the Goethe Institute in Bangladesh. She holds a Master of Arts in Sociology – European Societies from Freie Universität Berlin and completed an Erasmus semester at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. Ms. Lehmann attended the German Japanese Young Leaders Forum in Tokyo in 2019.

Leo SAKAGUCHI

Since July 2017, Leo Sakaguchi has been working at Sumitomo Corporation in Düsseldorf, Germany, managing biofuel investment projects related to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). He successfully established a biomass trading business based in Europe and developed offshore wind protection projects and subsea engineering. As a Global Ambassador of Sumitomo Corporation, he facilitated global communication and developed open innovation strategies, events, and solutions to execute intrapreneurship. From April 2019 to 2022, he founded and served as CEO of Polyglo, an NGO that helps parents raise multilingual children. He led negotiations with venture capital companies and angel investors and managed a team of eight members. Between July 2016 and July 2017, Mr. Sakaguchi worked as a Business Development Manager at ResQClub in Berlin, Germany, managing and initiating key accounts in the hospitality and hotel sector. He also set up sales processes (CRM) and developed the team to ensure client satisfaction. From January 2013 to December 2014, he was a Product Engineer at Lufthansa Group (Spiriant GmbH) in Frankfurt, Germany, working in the Engineering & Conceptual Design division. Regarding his academic achievements, he was a researcher at the University of California at Berkeley, USA, in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from 2015 to 2016. He holds an M.Sc. in Energy Science & Engineering (Renewables & Infrastructure) from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, completed between 2014 and 2016. In 2012, he studied abroad at the University of Tokyo, Japan, in the Faculty of Materials Engineering and also holds a B.Sc. in Applied Mechanics from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, completed between 2008 and 2014. Since 2023, Mr. Sakaguchi has been the Chairman of the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum Alumni Association. In 2023-2024, he completed a one-year program at the Academy of Young Diplomats in Warsaw, focusing on diplomacy and international relations. Since 2020, he has been actively involved with Toastmasters International, holding various leadership roles, including President, Immediate Past President, Secretary General, Head of Mentorship, and Vice President of Education of the club in Düsseldorf, Germany.

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