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# German-Japanese Forum 2025

## 2025年 日独フォーラム 合同会議

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Meeting Documents

会議資料

December 3 - 5, 2025 in Berlin

2025年12月3日～5日  
ベルリン開催

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日程案

# 日程

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## 2025年日独フォーラム合同会議

### 激動の世界秩序

日程：2025年12月3日（水）～5日（金）

会場：ドイツ連邦外務省、マリー・エリザベート・リュース・ハウス、ドイツ連邦議会

会議言語：日本語およびドイツ語（同時通訳付き）

宿泊先：ホテル・パレス・ベルリン（Hotel Palace Berlin, Budapester Str. 45, 10787 Berlin）

### 2025年12月3日（水）

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15：00                      ホテル発、ドイツ連邦外務省行き（貸切バス） \*14:50 ホテルロビー集合

16：00～19：00           **公開セッション 2025年日独フォーラム、  
ベルリン日独センター創立40周年 記念行事**  
                                 **「過去・現在・未来／日独パートナーシップの再評価」**  
                                 会場：ドイツ連邦外務省「ヨーロッパホール（オイローパザール）」  
                                 （Europasaal des Auswärtigen Amtes, Unterwasserstr. 10, 10117 Berlin）

16：00～16：03          開会の歌                      ヴェルニゲローデ放送青年合唱団

16：03～16：10          歓迎挨拶                      ゲザ・アンドレアス・フォン・ガイヤー ドイツ外務事務次官

16：10～16：20          祝辞                              城内実 衆議院議員（日本成長戦略担当大臣）      [ビデオメッセージ]  
                                 フロリアン・ハウアー ベルリン州首相府連邦・欧州問題・国際関係担  
                                 当次官

16：20～16：50          パネルディスカッション  
                                 フランク・ハルトマン ドイツ連邦外務省アジア太平洋総局長  
                                 志野光子 駐ドイツ日本国特命全権大使  
                                 小林栄三 日独フォーラム共同座長；伊藤忠商事株式会社名誉理事  
                                 （コメンテーター）  
                                 ダニエラ・シュヴァルツァー 日独フォーラム共同座長；  
                                 ベルテルスマン財団理事（モデレーター）

- 16：50～17：00 謝辞、ビデオ放映「ベルリン日独センターの40年」  
八木毅 ベルリン日独センター総裁
- 17：00～17：05 閉会の歌 ヴェルニゲローデ放送青年合唱団
- 17：05～19：00 **ドイツ連邦外務省（ゲザ・アンドレアス・フォン・ガイヤー ドイツ事務次官）主催レセプション**
- 19：15 ドイツ連邦外務省発、ホテル行き（貸切バス） \*19：05 ドイツ連邦外務省出口集合

## 2025年12月4日（木） 会議一日目

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- 9：00 ホテル発、ドイツ連邦首相府行き（貸切バス） \*8：50 ホテルロビー集合
- 9：30～10：30 首相府訪問：ギンター・ザウター（ドイツ連邦外交・安全保障政策担当首相補佐官）
- 10：35 ドイツ連邦首相府発、日独フォーラム会場行き（貸切バス）  
\*10：35 ドイツ連邦首相府 ロビー集合  
会場：マリー・エリザベート・リュウダース・ハウス  
（Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Str. 1, 10117 Berlin）  
コーヒーブレイク
- 11：00 **日独共同座長による開会の挨拶**  
ダニエラ・シュヴァルツァー（ベルテルスマン財団理事）  
小林栄三（伊藤忠商事株式会社名誉理事）  
  
玄葉光一郎 衆議院議員 [ビデオメッセージ]
- 11：15～15：00 **第1セッション**  
**新たな世界秩序：ドイツと日本から見た課題と対応**  
司会: ダニエラ・シュヴァルツァー（ベルテルスマン財団理事）  
日本の視点: 岩間陽子（政策研究大学院大学教授）  
ドイツの視点: シュテファン・マイヤー（ドイツ国際安全保障研究所所長）  
日独双方のスピーカーの発言後、ディスカッション

### 〈第1セッションの概要〉

世界秩序が、多極化の進展、米中の戦略的競争、ロシア・ウクライナの戦争継続や各地での紛争、そして国際機関への再編圧力の高まりなど、深刻な移行期にあり、ドイツと日本は外交・安全保障・防衛戦略や同盟関係の見直しに迫られています。日独両国はそれぞれの地域において、変わりゆく課題や期待に直面しており、それらは相互に絡み合い、欧州とインド太平洋の安全保障問題にも結びついています。

第1セッションは、「日独両国がそれぞれの安全保障上の課題をどのように捉えているか」「国際体制の分断が進む中で自国をどのように位置づけるのか」「地政学的なダイナミズムが変動する中で、米国はじめ他国との関係の将来をどのように考えるか」について議論します。また、安全保障問題については、防衛のみならず、（情報操作や経済的圧力なども組み合わせた）ハイブリッド脅威、経済安全保障、（パンデミックやSDGsへの対応など）社会的レジリエンスも含む、広義の概念で議論します。

### 〈主な論点〉

- ・ 日本とドイツにとって主な安全保障上の懸念は何か。これらに対処するうえで最も有望な戦略は何か。
- ・ 国際的なリーダーとしての米国の立場の変化にドイツと日本はどのように適応しているのか。特に、安全保障、テクノロジー、貿易をはじめとした米国の諸政策のうち、日独の国益と一致している分野、あるいは対立している分野は何か。
- ・ より対立的で不安定な世界において、日独両国は強靱性や戦略的自律性を高めるためにどのような戦略を追求しているのか。
- ・ ルールに基づいた国際秩序の再構築に向けて、日独はそれぞれ、あるいは共同でどのように貢献できるか。また、日独の緊密な協力が貢献できる分野はどれか。

議論を通じて、世界秩序が変貌する中での日独それぞれのアプローチを明確化すること、大西洋連携・太平洋連携の分野を特定すること、日独による協調行動の可能性を発見することを目指します。

12:30～13:45 昼食会場へ移動

レストラン「ハーベル・アム・ライヒスターク（Habel am Reichstag）」  
(Luisenstr. 19, 10117 Berlin) \*徒歩3分もしくは貸切バス

13:45～15:00 第1セッション・ディスカッション

15:00～18:15 第2セッション

**国際情勢変化がもたらす新たな国内課題：日独の政治・経済・社会情勢**

**司会：** 小林栄三（伊藤忠商事株式会社名誉理事）

**ドイツの視点：** カール＝ルドルフ・コルテ

（デュイスブルク・エッセン大学政治学研究所名誉教授）

**日本の視点：** 吉野直也（日本経済新聞社ニュースエディター兼国際報道センター長）

日独双方のスピーカーの発言後、ディスカッション

## 〈第2セッションの概要〉

民主主義のリーダー国かつグローバル経済の主要プレイヤーであるドイツと日本にとって、国際情勢の変化は、国内の政治・経済・社会動向を揺るがす大きなファクターです。特に、地政学的緊張や経済の分断、技術の革新・移行は、国家レベルの統治や議論に直接的な影響を与えます。

第2セッションでは、安全保障上の脅威、エネルギーの対外依存、サプライチェーンの混乱といった、グローバルな課題に対し、日独の政治がどのように取り組んでいるのかを検証します。さらに、その政治的対応が、国家の強靱性、社会的結束、政策決定への信頼に及ぼす影響も議論します。

## 〈主な論点〉

- ・ 国際的な危機や同盟関係における不確実性は、日独の国内政治にどのような影響を与えているのか。
- ・ 両国の主要な経済的課題は何か。経済および安全保障上の課題に対応すべく、どのような国内調整を行なっているのか。
- ・ 両国の主な社会的課題は何か。また、デジタル化（DX）やグリーントランスフォーメーション（GX）に向けて、政府や社会は、どのように取り組んでいるのか。

議論を通して、日独両国の類似点や相違点を浮き彫りにし、互いに学び合える分野や協力する機会を模索します。

16：45～17：00 コーヒーブレイク

18：30 会場発、駐ドイツ日本国大使公邸行き

\*18：25 マリー・エリザベート・リューダース・ハウス前集合

19：00 **志野光子駐ドイツ日本国特命全権大使 主催晩餐会**

会場：日本大使公邸

(Residence of the Ambassador of Japan, Hiroshimastr. 6, 10785 Berlin)

21：10 晩餐会会場発、ホテル行き（貸切バス） \*21：05 駐ドイツ日本国大使公邸前集合

## 2025年12月5日（金） 会議二日目

8：30 ホテル発、日独フォーラム会場行き（貸切バス） \*8：20ホテルロビー集合

会場：マリー・エリザベート・リュース・ハウス  
（Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Str. 1, 10117 Berlin）

9：15～12：45 **第3セッション**

### 国境を越えた宇宙の活用：日独の役割と二国間協力の将来

司会：小林栄三（伊藤忠商事株式会社名誉理事）

日本の視点：森本幸一（宇宙航空研究開発機（JAXA）パリ駐在員事務所所長）

米倉英一（スカパーJSAT株式会社代表取締役執行役員社長）[ビデオメッセージ]

ドイツの視点：ニクラス・ラインケ（ドイツ航空宇宙センター日本駐在事務所所長）

マティアス・ヴァハター（ドイツ産業連盟（BDI）国際協力・安全保障・原料・宇宙部門長）

日独双方のスピーカーの発言後、ディスカッション

#### 〈第3セッションの概要〉

第3セッションでは、衛星システムなどの航空宇宙技術の活用が、民間主導で急速に拡大していることに焦点を当てます。①様々な産業分野における宇宙技術の活用の広がり、②安全保障・災害対応・脱炭素といった社会的課題の解決手段として宇宙システムが果たせる役割などについて、最新の動向や将来の展望を共有した上で、宇宙活用における日独協力の可能性について議論します。

さらに、「宇宙交通の整備」「サイバーセキュリティへの対応」「宇宙デブリ（ゴミ）の軽減」など、宇宙活用拡大に伴う新たな規制整備やリスク管理に対する国際協力の重要性にも触れていきます。

10：45～11：00 コーヒーブレイク

11：00 **第3セッション・ディスカッション**

12：45～13：00 **日独共同座長による閉会の辞**

13：00～14：00 昼食会場へ移動

レストラン「ハーベル・アム・ライヒスターク（Habel am Reichstag）」  
（Luisenstr. 19, 10117 Berlin） \*徒歩で3分もしくは貸切バス

14：15 会場発、ホテル行き（貸切バス） \*14：10レストラン前集合

2025年日独フォーラム合同会議は、ドイツ外務省の助成を受けています。



## PROGRAM

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### German-Japanese Forum 2025

### World Order in Upheaval

In Berlin, Federal Foreign Office and Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, German Bundestag

From Wednesday, December 3, to Friday, December 5, 2025

*Conference languages: German and Japanese with simultaneous interpretation*

#### **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

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15:00 h	Bus leaves Hotel Palace Berlin to Federal Foreign Office (meeting point at 14:50 h in the hotel lobby)
16:00 – 19:00 h	<b>Open Session on the Occasion of the German-Japanese Forum 2025 and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) Past – Present – Future. Reviewing the Japanese-German Partnership</b> Venue: Federal Foreign Office of Germany, “Europasaal” Address: Europasaal des Auswärtigen Amtes, Unterwasserstr. 10, 10117 Berlin
16:00 – 16:03 h	<b>Musical Opening</b> Ensemble of the Radio Youth Choir Wernigerode
16:03 – 16:10 h	<b>Words of Welcome</b> Dr. Géza Andreas von Geyr (State Secretary, Federal Foreign Office)
16:10 – 16:20 h	<b>Greeting Addresses</b> Minoru Kiuchi (Minister in Charge of Japan's Growth Strategy; Member of the House of Representatives) (Video message) Florian Hauer (Permanent Secretary for Federal and European Affairs and International Relations, State of Berlin Delegate to the Federation)
16:20 – 16:50 h	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Ambassador Frank Hartmann (Director-General for Asia and the Pacific, Federal Foreign Office) Ambassador Mitsuko Shino (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan) Comment: Eizō Kobayashi (ITOCHU Corporation) Moderation: Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer (Bertelsmann Stiftung)
16:50 – 17:00 h	<b>Words of Thanks and Video “JDZB 40 Years”</b> Ambassador Takeshi Yagi (President, Japanese-German Center Berlin, JDZB)
17:00 – 17:05 h	<b>Musical Closing</b>

Ensemble of the Radio Youth Choir Wernigerode

17:05 h - 19:00 h

### **Reception**

Host: Dr. Géza Andreas von Geyr (State Secretary, Federal Foreign Office)

19:15 h

Bus transfer to Hotel Palace Berlin

*(meeting point at 19:05 at exit of Federal Foreign Office)*

### **Hotel Palace Berlin**

*Address: Budapester Str. 45, 10787 Berlin*

## **Thursday, December 4, 2025**

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09:00 h

Bus leaves Hotel Palace Berlin to Federal Chancellery

*(meeting point at 8:50 h in the hotel lobby)*

9:30 – 10:30 h

### **Federal Chancellery: Meeting with Dr. Günter Sautter (Foreign- and Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor)**

10:35 h

Bus transfer from Federal Chancellery to conference venue at German Bundestag

*(meeting point at appr. 10:35 in the lobby of Federal Chancellery)*

Venue: Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus

*Address: Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Str. 1, 10117 Berlin*

*Short Coffee Break*

11:00 h

### **Opening Remarks by the Co-Chairs**

Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

Eizō Kobayashi (ITOCHU Corporation)

### **Video Message**

Kōichirō Gemba (Member of the House of Representatives)

11:15 h

### **Session I**

#### **A New World Order: Challenges and Approaches from German and Japanese Perspectives**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

Japanese perspective:

Prof. Dr. Yōko Iwama (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies: GRIPS)

German perspective:

Dr. Stefan Mair (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

As the global order undergoes profound shifts – with rising multipolarity, strategic competition between the US and China, Russia's continuous war on Ukraine as well as further conflicts and growing pressure on international institutions – Germany and

Japan must reassess their foreign, security and defence policy strategies and partnerships. Both countries face evolving expectations and challenges in their respective regions which are intertwined and connect the European and the Indopacific security arena. This session will examine how Germany and Japan view their respective security challenges, how they position themselves in an increasingly fragmented international system and how they see the future of their respective relationships with the US and other countries amid changing geopolitical dynamics. The session will look at security in a large sense, including for instance defence, hybrid threats as well as economic security and societal resilience.

Key questions include:

- What are main security concerns for Japan and Germany and which strategies seem most promising to manage them?
- How are Germany and Japan adapting to the evolving role of the US in global leadership? In what areas do German and Japanese interests align – or diverge – from US policy, particularly on security, technology, and trade?
- What strategies are both countries pursuing to develop resilience and strategic autonomy in a more conflictual and volatile world?
- How can Germany and Japan contribute individually or jointly to the renewal of a rules-based international order? Which other areas of closer cooperation are useful?

This discussion aims to clarify national approaches, identify areas of transatlantic and transpacific alignment, and explore the potential for coordinated German-Japanese action in a changing world order.

### **Discussion Session I**

Apr. 12:30 h

*Transfer to Lunch (3 min. on foot or by bus)*

*Restaurant Habel am Reichstag*

*Address: Luisenstr. 19, 10117 Berlin*

Apr. 13:45 h

### **Continuation of Discussion Session I**

15:00 h

## **Session II**

### **International Developments as Internal Challenges: The Current Political, Economic, and Social Situation in Germany and Japan**

Chair: Eizō Kobayashi (ITOCHU Corporation)

German perspective:

Prof. Dr. Karl-Rudolf Korte (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Japanese perspective:

Naoya Yoshino, News Editor, Nikkei Inc. (NIKKEI Shimbun)

Germany and Japan, as leading democracies and global economic actors, are facing international developments that increasingly impact domestic politics, economies, and societies. Geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, and technological shifts shape national debates and governance directly.

This session will explore how global issues – such as security threats, energy dependencies, and supply chain disruptions – intersect politically. Experts will discuss how both countries are responding politically, and what this means for resilience, social cohesion, and trust in policy making.

Key questions include:

- How do international crises and uncertainty with regards to international alliances affect domestic politics in Germany and Japan?
- What are the major economic challenges and which internal adjustments are being made in response to economic and security challenges?
- What are the major societal challenges? How are governments and societies managing digital and green transition?

The discussion will highlight parallels and differences between the two countries and identify opportunities for shared learning and cooperation.

### **Discussion Session II**

16:45 – 17:00 h

*Short Coffee Break*

### **Continuation of Discussion Session II**

18:15 h

### **End of Session II**

Appr. 18:30 h

Bus transfer to the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan

*(meeting point at 18:25 h outside of Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus)*

19:00 h **Dinner at the Invitation of Her Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, Mitsuko Shino**

Venue: Residence of the Ambassador of Japan

*Address: Hiroshimastr. 6, 10785 Berlin*

21:10 h Bus transfer to Hotel Palace Berlin

*(meeting point at 21:05 h outside of the Embassy of Japan)*

**Hotel Palace Berlin**

*Address: Budapester Str. 45, 10787 Berlin*

## ***Friday, December 5, 2025***

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08:30 h Bus transfer from Hotel Palace Berlin to conference venue at German Bundestag

*(meeting point at 8:20 h in the hotel lobby)*

Venue: Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus

*Address: Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Str. 1, 10117 Berlin*

09:15 h **Session III**

**Space Utilization Beyond Borders: Germany and Japan's Roles and the Future of Bilateral Cooperation**

Chair: Eizō Kobayashi (ITOCHU Corporation)

Japanese perspective:

Kōichi Morimoto (JAXA Paris Office)

Eiichi Yonekura (SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation) (Video message)

German perspective:

Dr. Niklas Reinke (DLR Tokyo Office)

Matthias Wachter (BDI The Voice of German Industry)

This session will explore the rapidly expanding private-sector applications of aerospace technologies, such as satellite systems. The session will highlight the latest developments and future prospects in areas including the increasing integration of space-based solutions across various industries, and the contribution of space systems to addressing major societal challenges such as security, disaster response, and decarbonization.

Speakers will discuss the potential for German-Japanese collaboration in this context and will also touch on the importance of international cooperation in developing regulatory frameworks and managing emerging risks in space, for instance the governance of space traffic, cybersecurity threats, and the mitigation of space debris.

10:45 – 11:00 h

*Short Coffee Break*

**Discussion Session III**

12:45 – 13:00 h

**Summary and Concluding Remarks by the Co-Chairs**

End

13:00 h

*Transfer to Lunch (3 min. on foot or by bus)*

*Restaurant Habel am Reichstag*

*Address: Luisenstr. 19, 10117 Berlin*

Appr. 14:15 h

Bus transfer from Restaurant Habel to Hotel Palace Berlin

*(meeting point at appr. 14:10 h outside the restaurant)*

The German-Japanese Forum 2025 is being supported by a grant from the Federal Foreign Office.

## List of Participants

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参加者名簿

## 参加者名簿

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### A. 日独共同座長

小林 栄三	伊藤忠商事株式会社名誉理事
ダニエラ・シュヴァルツァー、Prof. Dr.	ベルテルスマン財団理事

### B. 日本側フォーラム参加者

玄葉 光一郎	衆議院議員（立憲民主党）
伊藤 鍊	Sakana AI株式会社共同創業者兼最高執行責任者（COO）
岩間 陽子、Prof. Dr.	政策研究大学院大学教授
狩野 功	公益財団法人日本国際交流センター理事長
柏 頼之	日本航空株式会社取締役専務執行役員
川村 陶子、Prof. Dr.	成蹊大学文学部国際文化学科教授
城内 実	日本成長戦略担当大臣；衆議院議員（自由民主党）
黒澤 信也	独立行政法人国際交流基金理事長
三好 範英	ジャーナリスト
森本 幸一	国立研究開発法人宇宙航空研究開発機構（JAXA）パリ駐在員事務所所長
成川 哲夫	三菱地所株式会社取締役、日独産業協会副理事長
大平 英二	川崎重工業株式会社欧州ガスタービン事業拠点特別主席
志野 光子	駐ドイツ日本国特命全権大使
武田 淳	株式会社伊藤忠総研代表取締役社長、チーフエコノミスト
田村 一彦	三菱電機ヨーロッパ社社長
寺西 和男	朝日新聞ベルリン支局長
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## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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in alphabetical order

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Prof. Dr. Daniela Schwarzer	Member of the Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung

### B. Japanese Participants

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Ren Itō	Co-Founder & COO, Sakana AI
Prof. Dr. Yōko Iwama	Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
Isao Kano	President & CEO, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
Yoriyuki Kashiwagi	Director & Senior Managing Executive Officer, Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.
Prof. Dr. Yōko Kawamura	Professor, Department of Cross-Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University
Minoru Kiuchi	Minister in Charge of Japan's Growth Strategy; Member of the House of Representatives, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP)
Shinya Kurosawa	President, Japan Foundation
Norihide Miyoshi	Journalist
Kōichi Morimoto	Director, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Paris Office
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Mai Rapsch	Interpreter (VKD & BDÜ)
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## Profiles

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### Japanese Participants

#### Eizō Kobayashi

Eizō 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 & 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.

#### Kōichirō Gemba

Kōichirō Gemba is an eleven-term member of the House of Representatives and Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was former Minister for Foreign Affairs in the cabinet of Yoshihiko Noda (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 cabinet of Naoto Kan. 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 of the party (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. In 1998 he joined the DPJ.

#### Ren Itō

Ren Itō 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, Mr. Ren took the lead on the global expansion of Mercari, Japan's first unicorn start-up which operates 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, Mr. 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).

## Yōko Iwama

Yōko 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); *The Realities of Nuclear Sharing: NATO Experience and Japan* (Kakukyōyū no Genjitsu: NATO no Keiken to Nihon) (edited, Shinzansha, 2023); Pacal Lottaz and Yoko Iwama (eds.) *Neutral Europe and the Creation of the Nonproliferation Regime: 1958-1968* (Routledge, 2023); John Baylis and Yoko Iwama (eds.) *Joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty: Deterrence, Non-Proliferation and the American Alliance* (Routledge, 2018). She co-translated Mary E. Sarotte's *Not One Inch: America, Russia, and the Making of Post-Cold War Stalemate* (Yale University Press, 2021) which was published in Japan from Iwanami Shoten in 2024.

## 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:

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 Japan-Korea 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 he 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. Since 2013, he has served as General Manager of the Kyushu District, and after being appointed Executive Officer in 2016, he held positions such as Deputy General Manager of the Passenger Sales Headquarters. Since 2024, as Senior Executive Officer and Director, he has been responsible for the Secretariat and General Policy Departments. He is strengthening external relations activities and striving to enhance corporate value. Additionally, in July of the same year, he founded JAL Aviofuture Lab Co., Ltd., the company's in-house think tank, serving concurrently as President. Through this initiative, he works toward realizing a "future" where air travel creates connections between people and regions, enriching society.

## Yōko Kawamura

Yōko 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 currently serves as President of the Japan Society for Intercultural Studies and Board Member at the Japan Association for Cultural Policy Research. Her publications include *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. Dr. 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 in Charge of Japan's Growth Strategy in October 2025. 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, Mr. Kiuchi serves as General Secretary of the Japanese-German 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.

## Shinya Kurosawa

Shinya "Billy" Kurosawa joined Japan Travel Bureau (JTB Corp.) in 1984 and served in various management positions, such as Head of Global Business Unit Headquarters, JTB Corp., President & CEO of JTB Pte Ltd. (JTB Asia Pacific Headquarters), President & CEO of JTB Global Marketing & Travel Inc. In April 2024, he became the first president of The Japan Foundation from a private company. At The Japan Foundation, he promotes diverse program developments by utilizing his expertise gained through extensive experience in international exchange during his time at JTB.

## 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), *Immigration Risk* (Shincho-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).

## Kōichi Morimoto

In October 2024, Kōichi Morimoto assumed the position of Director of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Paris Office. As JAXA's representative in Europe, he is responsible for liaison and coordination with the European Space Agency (ESA), national space agencies including those of Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, as well as industry and academia, and for gathering information on local developments. He joined the National Space Development Agency (one of JAXA's predecessors) in 1998, and after working in project promotion for the Human Spaceflight Division and handling international legal affairs for the Satellite Division, he served as Deputy Director of the JAXA Paris Office from 2009 to 2011. Subsequently, as the Europe and America lead officer in the International Affairs and Research Department, he promoted cooperation with the U.S. and the European space entities. After serving in the Human Resources Department, he assumed his current position in 2024. Mr. Morimoto holds a Master's of Technology and Innovation Management (MOT) from the Tokyo Institute of Technology (2020), and a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Osaka (1998). He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

## 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 continued 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. (Current Executive Advisor) 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.

## Eiji Ōhira

Eiji Ōhira has been engaged in the development of Kawasaki Heavy Industries' hydrogen business since joining the company in January 2025, leveraging his extensive experience in managing national R&D projects and international collaborations in the field of hydrogen and fuel cells. Since June 2025, he has been based in Germany at Kawasaki Gas Turbine Europe GmbH, and from August 2025, he also serves as the European Representative of the Japan Hydrogen Association.

Prior to joining Kawasaki, Mr. Ōhira worked at the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) from 1992, where he led various R&D initiatives addressing climate change and spearheaded Japan's international hydrogen cooperation efforts. He served as Vice Chair of the IEA Hydrogen Technology Collaboration Programme and contributed to hydrogen policy discussions at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). He is also active in public outreach through media and lectures.

Mr. Ōhira holds a Bachelor's degree from Tokyo University of Science and a Master's degree from Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

## **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 Nations since September 2022. In September 2024, she was appointed to the current position and was posted to Berlin in November.

## **Atsushi Takeda**

Atsushi Takeda was elected president and CEO in April 2023. Previously, he was responsible for providing top management support to the ITOCHU Group on macroeconomic analysis of domestic and international politics and economies. 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) where he 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.

## **Kazuhiko Tamura**

Kazuhiko Tamura was appointed President of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. in April 2025, bringing over 30 years of experience in international business and the extensive knowledge he has gained through postings in three different countries. Since joining Mitsubishi Electric Corporation in 1991, Mr. Tamura has held overseas assignments in Paris, Delhi and London, where he was responsible for overseeing the management of regional integrated sales companies across business such as thermal and air-conditioning systems, factory automation, semiconductors, and infrastructure. In 2011, he became General Manager, Corporate Strategic Planning of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., and in 2021, he was appointed Managing Director of Mitsubishi Electric India Private Ltd. Tamura currently serves as Corporate Executive, Chief Representative for Europe, Middle East & Africa Region for Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, overseeing the company's business operations across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. He graduated from Keio University with a degree in Economics in 1991.

## **Kazuo Teranishi**

Having joined Asahi Shimbun in 2023, Teranishi was posted in Mito bureau, Economy news section in the Nagoya head office and in the Tokyo head office. He was European Business Correspondent in the European General Bureau in London from 2015 to 2019, Chief Writer at the financial news team from 2019 to 2021, and Deputy Editor at the economy news section from 2021 to 2023.

**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).

**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 17 Japanese prime ministers, from Morihiro Hosokawa to Sanae Takaichi, and covered their finance and economic ministries. He served as a Washington correspondent from 2012 to 2017, reporting on the 2012 and 2016 US presidential elections. He has been hosting his own radio and podcast program in Japan since June 2025 where he engaged in discussions with top Japanese politicians and offered his listeners an insider's perspective on political power.

## German Participants

### 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, Prof. Dr. 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. In 2023, she was co-rapporteur of the working group on EU reform and enlargement, convened by the French and German governments. From 2020 to 2022, Prof. Dr. Schwarzer 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. Since 2025, Daniela Schwarzer has been serving as the honorary president of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations and as co-chair of the German-Japanese Forum. She is a member of the supervisory boards of BNP Paribas and Covivio, an honorary board member of DGAP, 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.

### Joachim Bertele

Dr. Joachim Bertele has served as Commissioner for East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific since August 2025. From 2021 to 2025, he was Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Sweden, a position he shared with his wife, Christina Beinhoff, in a job-sharing arrangement.

Dr. Bertele studied law at the Universities of Konstanz and Freiburg, passing the First State Examination in Konstanz in 1992 and completing his Second State Examination in Freiburg following a clerkship with placements in Freiburg, Lörrach, Delhi (India), and Stuttgart. He holds a Master of Law (LL.M.) from the University of Cambridge, supported by a DAAD scholarship, and earned his Doctorate in Law from the University of Freiburg.

Between 1997 and 2007, Dr. Bertele held various positions in the Foreign Service and the Federal Chancellery. During this time, he dealt with a wide range of regional and international issues and gained diplomatic experience through postings to several foreign missions. From 2007 to 2009, he worked in the cabinet of French Prime Minister François Fillon as an advisor on Franco-German relations. He then worked as European Affairs Officer at the German Embassy in Paris until 2010.

From 2010 to 2021, Dr. Bertele held senior positions in the fields of foreign and security policy, global issues, and international law at both the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Chancellery.



## Daniela Blaschke

Dr. Daniela Blaschke is Head of Public Affairs and Subsidy Strategy Management at PowerCo SE, Volkswagen Group's battery entity. 2022-2023, she was living and working in Japan, supporting research and development teams at Volkswagen Group Japan by looking into the regulatory and socio-political context of innovation in South and East Asia. In 2021, Dr. Blaschke was an innovation fellow at the German federal administration, helping civil servants to modernize their working routines, nudging cultural change towards a more stakeholder-centered and digital administration. Her career started at Volkswagen Group's headquarter in Germany, focused on stakeholder communications and strategy for the public affairs and sustainability departments. During that time, Dr. Blaschke also led international projects within the company's transformation network and wrote her doctoral thesis on corporate social responsibility at the department of philosophy and humanities at Freie Universität Berlin. She studied media and communication science, political science and arts and media administration.

## Claudia Derichs

Claudia Derichs, PhD, is Professor of Transregional Southeast Asian Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU). She has studied Japanese and Arabic in Bonn, Tokyo and Cairo, holds a PhD in Japanology (1994, University of Bonn, Germany) and in Political Science (2004, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany). She assumed professorships in Political Science at the universities of Hildesheim and Marburg before moving to HU Berlin and fully committing to the field of Area Studies. Her research covers gender, religion, and political violence in Japan, Southeast Asia and the Middle East/West Asia, looking particularly at transregional connections in and beyond the "long 1960s". She is a board member of the Berlin Forum for Transregional Studies (TraFo) and works towards new orientations in Area Studies.

## Veronika Grimm

Veronika Grimm has been a Professor at the Technical University of Nuremberg since 2024, where she heads the Energy Systems and Market Design Lab. Prior to that, she held positions at the FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Universidad de Alicante, and the University of Cologne, and spent extended research stays at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Université Catholique de Louvain.

Since 2020, Veronika Grimm has been a member of the German Council of Economic Experts. She is also actively involved in numerous committees and advisory boards, including the German Federal Government's National Hydrogen Council, the expert commission on monitoring the energy system transformation at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), the German government's Advisory Council on Consumer Affairs at the Federal Ministry for Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV), and the Energy Steering Panel of the European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC). She serves on the supervisory board of Siemens Energy AG and is chair of Zentrum Wasserstoff.Bayern (H2.B).

Veronika Grimm's research focuses on energy markets and energy market modeling, behavioral economics, social networks, auctions, and market design. She has received numerous awards in recent years in recognition of her work in transferring scientific findings into practice.

## Jürgen Hardt

Jürgen Hardt is a Member of the German Bundestag, having acted as the CDU/CSU parliamentary group's Spokesman for Foreign Policy since 2015. He previously served as the Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation in the Field of Intersocietal Relations, Cultural and Information Policy at the Federal Foreign Office (2014-2018). Prior to his election in 2009, he was the Head of Corporate Communications and SVP at Vorwerk & Co. KG. With a longstanding connection to the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, he previously worked as the party's European Policy Advisor in the Bundestag, Head of Social Policy at CDU Party Headquarters, and he also served as the Federal Chairman of the Association of Christian Democratic Students. Alongside his activities within the Bundestag plenary, Jürgen Hardt is a member of the

Committee on Foreign Affairs and is a substitute member of the Committee on Affairs of the European Union. He is also a Deputy Head of the German Delegation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a Substitute Member of the French-German Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He also is a Member of the Political Assembly (Board) of the European People's Party and Vice-President of the German-Israel Association. Jürgen Hardt holds a degree in Economics from the Universities of Heidelberg and Cologne and is also a trained Naval Officer (Lieutenant), having formerly been a Ship Security Officer and Technical Driver on the German Frigate *Augsburg*.

## Frank Hartmann

Frank Hartmann is Director General for Asia and the Pacific at the German Foreign Office since August 2024. His career in the Foreign Service includes numerous high-ranking positions both domestically and abroad. From 2021 until he returned to Berlin in summer 2024, Frank Hartmann had been representing Germany as Ambassador in Cairo. Prior to this, he served as Commissioner for Crisis Management at the German Foreign Office (2017-2021) and Director of the Division for the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America in the Federal Chancellery in Berlin (2015-2017). Other significant milestones in his career include his role as Director of the East Asian Division at the Foreign Office (2013-2015), Head of the Press and Information Section at the German Embassy in Beijing (2011-2013) and as Deputy Head of Division for Middle European and Benelux States at the Foreign Office in Berlin (2007-2011). Earlier in his career, he served in Sarajevo as the Head of Cabinet of the High Representative and EU Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina (2005-2007) and in Tokyo as Political Counsellor at the German Embassy (2002-2005). Frank Hartmann began his professional journey in the Foreign Service in 1993 after graduating in International Relations and Chinese Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

## Karl-Rudolf Korte

Karl-Rudolf Korte is Professor Emeritus 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). 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 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.

In recognition of his outstanding services to the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, NRW Minister President Hendrik Wüst awarded Director Emeritus Korte the Order of Merit of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in the summer of 2025. 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 more than 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 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* (Faces of Power – On the Shaping Potential of German Federal Presidents), 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, *Coronakratie. Demokratisches Regieren in Ausnahmezeiten* (Coronacracy. Democratic Governance in Exceptional Times) (Campus Verlag Frankfurt/New York), has been widely received. This year, he has co-published the book *Heuristiken des politischen Entscheidens* (Heuristics of political decision-making) (Suhrkamp Verlag Berlin).

Prof. em. Dr. Korte is currently working on updating his book *Wählermärkte. Wahlverhalten und Regierungspolitik in der Berliner Republik* (Voter Markets: Voting Behaviour and Government Policy in the Berlin Republic) (Campus Verlag/Frankfurt/New York). The focus is on election analyses, voter motives and government action.

### **Stefan Mair**

Stefan Mair has been Director and Executive Chairman of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) since 2020. His areas of expertise are German and EU foreign and security policy, geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics, trade and foreign economic policy. From 2010 to 2020, he was a member of the executive board of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), in charge of international and European affairs. He joined SWP in 1992 as a research associate, eventually serving as a member of the executive board from 2009 to 2010, as research director from 2007 to 2009, and as head of the Middle East and Africa Research division from 2001 to 2007. He earned his doctorate from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich) and was a PhD scholar at the Ifo Institute for Economic Research's Developing Countries department. He taught international affairs at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Freie Universität Berlin.

### **Gerda Meuer**

Gerda Meuer is an experienced media executive and accomplished journalist with a strong background in international affairs and over three decades of leadership experience at Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW). As Managing Director of Programming and long-standing member of DW's executive board, she played a key role in shaping the broadcaster's global editorial strategy and journalistic direction.

Her journalistic career includes extensive international reporting experience. She served as Foreign Correspondent in Tokyo for five years, reporting on East Asia, and later covered EU and NATO affairs from Brussels. Earlier in her career, she worked as an editor and reporter, always with a focus on international politics and intercultural dialogue.

Beyond her operational leadership roles, she has contributed her expertise to various supervisory and advisory boards, including the supervisory board of dpa (German Press Agency), the Bonn Institute for Constructive Journalism, and since 2018 the Foundation Council of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB). In 2024, she was appointed Honorary Chairwoman of the Board of the Berlin City Museums Foundation.

Gerda Meuer is recognized for her deep knowledge of Japan and German-Japanese relations. She remains a firm believer in the importance of international exchange as a means of fostering cultural understanding – especially in today's increasingly complex and turbulent world.

### **Matthias Moosdorf**

Matthias Moosdorf studied from 1986 to 1991 at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Academy of Music in Leipzig and graduated with a concert exam in the master class of 1991. He engaged in chamber music studies with the Amadeus Quartet in Cologne and London and worked from 1992 to 1996 as assistant at the University of Music and Theater in Leipzig. Mr. Moosdorf taught cello and chamber music at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Academy of Music and Theater in Leipzig from 1996 to 2005. He served as a guest professor at the Geidai University of Arts in Tokyo/Japan 2008 – 2013. Mr. Moosdorf engaged in political consulting since 2016, and in 2017 was active in parliamentary group consulting in the state parliament of Saxony. Mr. Moosdorf founded and manages Pierrot Lune GmbH. From 2017 to 2021 he was a research assistant in the German Bundestag. He is member of the AfD since 2016 and a member of the German Bundestag (AfD) since 2021. He serves as member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as deputy member of the Committee for Education, Research and Technology Assessment, and as deputy member of the Committee on European Union Affairs.

## Julia Münch

Dr. 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).

## Sara Nanni

Sara Nanni studied in Bordeaux/Stuttgart ("Franco-German Social Sciences" B.A. 2010) and in Frankfurt (Main)/Darmstadt ("Peace and Conflict Studies" M.A. 2014). Before she became Member of Parliament, she has worked as researcher at PRIF in Frankfurt, RWTH Aachen and at Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences (HSD). In 2009, she joined the Alliance 90/The Greens party. From 2012 onwards, she volunteered in party positions related to international politics.

She has been a member of the German Bundestag in the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group since 2021. Since then she is Spokesperson on Security Policy for the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group and parliamentary group coordinator on the Defence Committee. From 2022 to 2025 she was member and parliamentary group coordinator of the Committee of Inquiry on Afghanistan.

## Niklas Reinke

Dr. Reinke is the Director of the DLR Tokyo Office. He joined the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in 2004, where he built up the public affairs unit at the DLR Space Agency in Bonn and was later involved in strategic and policy planning. In 2013 he became the Founding Director of the DLR Tokyo Office. In this position, he coordinates DLR's approximately 300 cooperation topics with Japan and supports DLR's activities within the Indo-Pacific region. Before his work for DLR, he was a freelance research fellow at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP, German Council on Foreign Relations) in Berlin and a freelancer for international communication and marketing events and programs in Europe and Northern America for Adam Opel AG/General Motors Europe. Dr. Reinke graduated from Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn and earned a Ph.D. in political science with a thesis on *History of German space flight politics: ideas, influences, and interdependence (1923-2002)*. He is a member of the International Astronautical Association's (IAA) Space History Committee and publishes frequently on matters of space politics and space history.

## Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel

Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel is Chair of the Management Board at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (German Society for International Cooperation). He joined the GIZ in 2019 as Labour Director and became Chair of the Management Board in November 2022.

Mr. Schäfer-Gümbel holds a degree in political science from Justus Liebig University Giessen and is a renowned member of the political party SPD. He was, amongst other positions, one of three Co-Chairs of the SPD at the national level in 2019. As a member of the national board of the SPD, his responsibilities included taxation, finance, economic policy and international relations (Asia).

Mr. Schäfer-Gümbel represents GIZ on the Broadcasting Council of Deutsche Welle and on the Board of Directors of sequa gGmbH. He is also a Member of the Rhineland-Palatine's Future Council for Sustainable Development and on the Policy Board of the National Urban Development Policy.

## David Schliesing

David Schliesing was born in Osterburg (Saxony-Anhalt) and raised in Berlin. He completed secondary education (Abitur) in 2002 at Wilhelm-von-Siemens-Gymnasium in Berlin-Marzahn and studied German literature and philosophy at the University of Potsdam from 2003 to 2005 (without earning a degree). From 2005 to 2010, he studied theatre directing at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin, graduating with a diploma.

From 2010 to 2013, he worked as a dramaturge for drama at the Mainz State Theatre. From 2013 to 2015, he held the same position at the Municipal Theatre of Bonn. He worked as a freelance dramaturge from 2015 to 2016. From 2016 to 2019, David Schliesing served as Head Dramaturge for Drama at the Theatre Magdeburg. He furthermore held teaching appointments at the Mozarteum University Salzburg and the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Since 2021, he is employed as an audio editor for the Saxony-Anhalt State Parliament.

David Schliesing is a member of the political party Die Linke since 2020. Since 2021, he holds the position of Deputy District Chair of the Börde District Association. David Schliesing is a Member of Parliament since 2025.

## Petra Sigmund

Ambassador Petra Sigmund studied sinology, political science and economic policy studies at Heidelberg University, the Freie Universität 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.

## 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, Sophia University, the University of the Ryūkyūs, and Cornell University, and was a visiting professor at Waseda University, Kyūshū University, and Chūō University.

Prof. Dr. 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 newly established 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. Recent journal publications in these contexts include: "The Aging Democracy: Demographic Effects, Political Legitimacy, and the Quest for Generational Pluralism." In: *Perspectives on Politics* (2023, 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).

## Matthias Wachter

Matthias Wachter is Managing Director of the German NewSpace Initiative. He is also Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Security Policy, Raw Materials and Space at the Federation of German Industries (BDI) in Berlin. Mr. Wachter studied international relations and business administration in Germany, France and the U.S.. He also holds an Executive MBA from the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT). Mr. Wachter is a reserve officer (Lieutenant Colonel) in the German Armed Forces. In 2006, he voluntarily took part in a Bundeswehr mission abroad in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is a member of the Space Program Commission at the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

## Franz Waldenberger

Prof. Dr. 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.

## 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, Gerhard 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 Lebensversicherung a. G. and WWK Allgemeine Versicherung AG.

Before joining Metzler Bank in 2001, Gerhard 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. Gerhard 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. From October 2020 to October 2024, he was President of the financial center initiative Frankfurt Main Finance e.V. In addition, Wiesheu has been a member of the Executive Board and the Assembly of Delegates of the Association of German Banks since July 2023.

Gerhard 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 Foundation Council of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) since 2014.

Gerhard Wiesheu has accompanied several delegation trips of the German Federal Government and the German Federal President over the years. For example, he accompanied German Federal 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 the 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.

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 with 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. 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 Sclerosis Society. Mr. Wulff is a member of the board of trustees of the Felix-Nussbaum-Foundation and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation.

## **Young Leaders**

### **Tomoko Geshi**

Tomoko Geshi is a professional at YANMAR Holdings Co., Ltd., which operates in multiple industrial business sectors such as engines, energy systems, and agricultural/construction machinery, with experience in various sectors since 2011. Ms. Geshi has been working in the energy systems sector since 2024, with experience in the project management office for Post-Merger Integration of a Czech company to ensure a smooth take-off, as well as leading the website renewal project to enhance online marketing. Previously, Ms. Geshi was dedicated to the group head office, where she administered the group's M&A cases and internal procedures, and organized initiatives for Diversity & Inclusion, including collaboration with other companies. She has also experience in accounting, including financial consolidation and analysis of financial performance. These experiences have enabled her to develop the ability to lead and drive projects. Regarding Tomoko Geshi's educational background, she holds an MBA from Kobe University and a bachelor's degree in foreign studies with a focus on the Persian language from Osaka University, including nine months of language study in Tehran, Iran.

## Thaddeus Jahn

Thaddeus Jahn currently serves as Vice President Public Affairs at Commerzbank AG. He is responsible for communicating with policymakers in Berlin and strategically positioning the bank across a diverse portfolio of future-focused topics, including transformation financing, digitalization, and economic competitiveness. Mr. Jahn also leads the bank's efforts in ensuring transparency in government engagement. He has previously completed trainee programs in general management at Commerzbank AG and in international trade at the European Parliament in Brussels. Mr. Jahn holds a Double MSc in International Affairs from the London School of Economics (LSE) and Peking University (PKU), as well as a BSc (Hons) in International Relations from the LSE. His achievements and interest in German-Japanese and transatlantic relations have earned him recognition as a German-Japanese Young Leader (2025) and Atlantik-Brücke Young Leader (2024). His research on West Germany's relations with Afghan resistance groups during the Soviet-Afghan War has been published in the academic journal *The International History Review*.

## Ryō Katō

Ryō Katō has served at Sumitomo Corporation since 2023. As of 2025, he is the Assistant Head of Corporate Communications Department and responsible for managing the company's global website and brand strategy, playing a central role in shaping corporate communication initiatives.

Prior to joining Sumitomo Corporation, Mr. Katō worked as a journalist for *The Asahi Shimbun*, covering significant events including the COVID-19 pandemic (2020) and the Tokyo Olympic Games (2021). His coverage of the 10 years of disaster hit area of Great East Japan Earthquake, was featured in the *Asahi Shimbun Digital* special "The Disaster Areas Seen from the Ocean." This work received the Award of Excellence from the *Society for News Design* (2021) and the *Best Work Award* in the On-Screen Category of the *Japan Typography Annual* (2022).

Mr. Katō is an alumnus of the 2025 German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum and currently serves on the Steering Committee for its 2026 Alumni Conference. In the field of accounting, his area of academic specialization, he obtained a U.S. CPA license in 2023 and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Professional Accountancy at the University of London.

## Joseph Langner

Joseph Langner is a Co-Managing Director at JoinPolitics, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political leadership incubator in Germany. His work focuses on developing new approaches to solution-oriented politics, innovation and financing to advance democracy in Germany and Europe.

He is a member of the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum, a New Bridge Fellow at Atlantik-Brücke, a supporter of the Afro-Diasporic Academic Network (ADAN e.V.) and a former member of the Grantmaking Council of the Multitudes Foundation (now BetterPolitics Foundation). Previously, he worked as a Strategy Consultant for European public institutions and as Chief of Staff in the Public Sector & Digital Practices division at Oliver Wyman.

Joseph Langner studied business administration, philosophy and economics at the University of Mannheim and WASEDA Business School in Tokyo and taught public and nonprofit management at IU International University of Applied Sciences.



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