

German unity day

Shaping the future with our partner Japan

Volker Stanzel
AMBASSADOR OF GERMANY

Dear Readers of The Japan Times:



In 2020 Tokyo will once again host the Olympic games, what a memorable decision by the International Olympic Committee!

I see great enthusiasm in Japan to host the Games, the athletes and the many visitors coming to Japan. It is an occasion that gives Japan many opportunities to shape its future.

There are times when Germany and Japan shape their future together. Both of us have to find our place in the rapidly globalizing world. Both of us are democratic, market economy-oriented, open societies. And as two large countries with aging populations, we also have to find solutions on how to care and provide for our aged. Both Germany and Japan are facing the challenge of building an efficient, safe and economical energy production and distribution system.

But even more: "Zukunft gestalten" — Shaping the Future — is now the motto for all German-Japanese projects here in Japan. Shaping the future also means coming to terms with the past, commemorating events and recognizing their influence on today. In the past year, Germany together with France has celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Élysée treaty. The treaty is an expression of the will of the German and French peoples to overcome hostility and form a peaceful, democratic and economically successful union. Together with my colleague, Ambassador of the Republic of France, Excellency Christian Masset, I have visited universities and journalists. We have together celebrated the French National Day in July and for our Day of Reunification, today, Excellency Masset will be my guest of honor at the German Embassy, where both our national anthems will be played.



Friendship: German Ambassador Volker Stanzel (left) and French Ambassador Christian Masset receive flowers after their lectures at Kanagawa University in Yokohama on July 3 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Élysée Treaty. EMBASSY OF GERMANY

Building peace and friendly, neighborly relations has also been at the heart of the European Union since its beginning. The EU is today addressing human rights issues, has a diplomatic service and has become an area of free travel, study and work. We are supporting the

build-up of the police force in Afghanistan and negotiating trade agreements — for example with Japan. This year we were also able to welcome Croatia as the 28th member into the union. Currently the financial and economic crisis demands all our attention. The plans for

a banking union are nearing completion. With this tool and many others, we are working to achieve a zone of sustainable, and stable growth, that offers prosperity and economic well-being to all the euro-zone members, who will number 18 from next year on, when Lithuania joins the euro.

When we celebrate the 23rd anniversary of German reunification today, we also remember that it was the trust of our European partners and friends in the peaceful character of the reunified Germany that made



Symbols: Left, the official logo of Germany-Japan friendship, created for "Germany in Japan Year 2005/2006," is combined with a new motto: "Zukunft gestalten" or "Shaping the future together." Right, the Human Rights Logo was designed in 2011 as a universal symbol of promotion and protection of human rights. EMBASSY OF GERMANY

Deutschlandfest (German Festival) 2013 in Aoyama Park

• Oct. 11-14, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. (from 5 p.m. on Oct. 11)

Aoyama Park, Roppongi 7-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo; access via Roppongi Station (Hibiya and Oedo lines) or Nogizaka Station (Chiyoda Line)

The Deutschlandfest (German Festival) showcases German culture through culinary specialties and regional beverages such as beer as well as produce and kitchenware, and music and arts.

There will also be various workshops, stage performances and many other attractions. Entrance is free. For further details, please visit www.deutschlandfest.com.



German institutions in Japan. Maybe you are planning to study in Germany or want to go on a vacation to Germany, or you are interested in German-Japanese friendship activities in your region. For more information on this, the Deutschlandfest will be the ideal place.

Finally and again: Congratulations to Japan and Tokyo, I am sure you will be fantastic hosts in 2020 when the world will be your guest. Let us together celebrate these happy events with a German beer and some pretzels at Aoyama Park!

Therefore, I would like to invite you to the Deutschlandfest at Aoyama Park in Minato Ward, Tokyo, from Oct. 11 to 14 to celebrate with us. You will find cultural and music displays, German products and a variety of food and drinks, and you can also take the opportunity and talk with representatives of the

From cooperation in science to partners in innovation

Manfred Hoffmann
DELEGATE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY AND TRADE IN JAPAN

Germany has elected a new parliament and part of the outcome can be understood in a way that voters applauded the success of the German industry in the past four years. In a time of financial and economic crisis, the German economy has performed very well.



This success would not have been possible had German companies not put so much emphasis on innovation and the development of new technologies in the past.

Modern industrialized societies like Germany, with little natural resources but a lot of international competition from emerging markets, depend on research and innovation as one of their core strengths. The same goes for Japan. Both our countries face similar challenges in the fields of environment, energy, health and security, among others.

Germany has done a lot to strengthen its innovation potential. Since 2005, the federal government's spending on science has increased by about 60 percent. Industrial research has also flourished and so Germany is now close to spending 3 percent of its gross domestic product on science and technology — almost on par with Japan. This year, Germany has moved up two ranks on the World Economic Forum's ranking of the most competitive economies. It now stands at No. 4, behind Switzerland, Singapore and Finland.

Germany has a huge number of highly acclaimed and internationally renowned research institutes, universities and other scientific facilities. There are about 750 public-funded research institutions, roughly 100 research networks and clusters, and over 530,000 people working in R&D, in addition to another 317,000 scientists and scholars.

Nonetheless, a large part of Germany's innovation power comes from R&D-oriented companies. Their investments in new technologies and innovation are key to survival in the global mar-

ket. Competition, especially in high-tech markets, has tightened markedly. Companies not only fight for market share but also for good locations and highly qualified personnel. According to a survey by the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, about half of all innovation-centered companies surveyed are planning to further strengthen their investments — while the other half at least maintains the high level it is on already. This is remarkable, given the tense economic situation of the past few years. Many Japanese companies are among those competitors German firms have to cope with. However, there is also considerable and growing exchange and cooperation between Germany and Japan.

Traditionally, for the largest part, this has happened at the level of universities or research institutes like Fraunhofer Society, Max Planck Society, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centers or the German Research Foundation. Most recently, the German Aerospace Center, DLR, has established a representative office in Tokyo and boasts

around 40 projects and cooperation agreements with Japanese partners. The German Research and Innovation Forum in Tokyo acts as a hub, helping actors on both sides to find their respective counterpart in the other country.

But growing exchange and cooperation can also be observed between innovation clusters as in Saitama, home of Canon, Honda, Yaskawa or Nissan, in the cluster "Mechatronik & Automation" in the northern part of Bavaria or in Silicon Saxony, one of Europe's largest networks with regard to micro- and nano-electronics, software and photovoltaics. And it can be observed between German and Japanese companies. Japan's private sector is at the heart of the country's innovation system. Just like Germany, Japanese companies are among the best in the world in applied research in industries like robotics, electronics, new materials, e-mobility or environmental technology. Both, Japanese as well as German companies in Japan, are well aware that they can mutually learn through partnerships as well as through observing their competitors.

Examples for this kind of co-

operation are manifold: German pharmaceutical companies pursue R&D in the Kobe area where they can find outstanding conditions with regard to testing facilities or human resources. New medical technology devices invented by Japanese companies are being tested in German clinics. Major German and Japanese car-makers work together in the field of e-mobility. The key for all this is to identify complementary demands and create win-win situations.

This requires constant exchange and reliable networks. One example how this is pursued is the German Innovation Award (GIA), which is being awarded to outstanding young Japanese scientists. It has been established in 2008 by 12 innovation-oriented German companies in Japan and the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan and aims to promote industry-academia cooperation between both countries. GIA has become a true success story having facilitated hundreds of contacts.

However, there is still a lot we can do, still a lot more potential for German-Japanese coopera-



Partnership: From scientific exchange to cooperation in innovation, there is much potential for Germany and Japan to benefit from one another. DELEGATE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY AND TRADE IN JAPAN

tion. Japanese companies and government institutions are strongly interested in German technology and know-how in the field of renewable energy. However, Germany is also the first country to pursue a definite exit from nuclear power and is about to decommission a large number of power plants in the next 10 years. How can Japan benefit from this in dealing with its own energy strategy?

Japan is the oldest society in the world and while Germans

watch this with a lot of interest, are we doing enough to prepare for becoming a super-aged society ourselves?

Cyber security is one of the biggest issues these days. Both our countries are highly vulnerable to industrial espionage or sabotage — can we not work together more closely in this matter?

These are only a few of the fields, in which both sides can benefit from sticking their heads together.

We proudly look back on

more than a hundred years in which scientific exchange and cooperation have been at the heart of German-Japanese relations and built the foundation for an excellent friendship. Today, it is with excitement that we look to the future, where the translation of this exchange and cooperation into the business sector must and will ensure both our countries' innovation potential and that Japan and Germany can flourish in a globalized world — as partners and friends.

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In Alphabetical Order

German unity day

Stronger together than alone — the European ideal

Raimund Wördemann
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
GOETHE-INSTITUT TOKYO

Since ancient times the fate of a nation has been decided in its capital. Depending on how

centralized or federal the structure of the nation is, other places might of course draw their respective attention as well. Aside



from the actual capital, these might be the major cities of the states and regions, economic metropolises, or there might be a stronghold of sports, a traffic hub, an industrial center or a science hot spot. In some countries there are times when people speak of one or another "secret capital" (in Germany, for a long time this has been Munich) or wistfully point at a former capital that went down in history as such. In Japan as well as in Germany this is settled, although not all that long in Germany. The twin towns of Tokyo and Berlin are undisputed in regard to their allure as capital of the most manifold and beautiful qualities. But what about a community of states like Europe, what about its numerous influential sites?

Well, 30 years ago the European Union had an inventive and trailblazing idea to give the "capital"-thing a whole new, cultural outline. The European Capital of Culture program was created, which was meant to be and still is a trigger for the various beautiful towns and regions of the continent. Every year a different place. A trigger, because it is a title that is not simply awarded for present beauty, but that honors cultural programmes which have been developed for the future and invite people from all over Europe and around the world to visit these "capitals" of European culture. What visitors will experience are plenty of special events, which aim at recognizing the cultural bonds between all Europeans.

Weimar, Essen, Madrid, Brügge, Kraków, Reykjavík — all these cities and many more European metropolises, regions and communities could adorn themselves for one year with the title of the European Capital of Culture. Cross-border projects standing for a European attitude toward life receive special attention.

In 1988, 25 years ago, it was West Berlin that presented itself to the world as the European Capital of Culture. At that time one could hardly speak of unity in Europe; Berlin itself was a divided town with a wall and barbed wire cutting it in half. From the beginning of the cold war on Berlin was, for a long time, a symbol of the separation of Europe into East and West. For almost half a century each side's countries went through distinct cultural developments that shaped arts, literature, music and everyday culture in their

own respective ways. The idea of the European Capital of Culture was to, by means of the respective programs, also give the chosen city the opportunity to undergo an "urban reshaping." Could one have guessed back then to what extent the cultural remodeling of Berlin would influence the political situation in Berlin and Europe?

1988, only one year before the fall of the Berlin Wall — it was that year, in which the German Democratic Republic imposed a ban on the Soviet monthly magazine Sputnik — that year, in which the European Movie Awards as the European equivalent to the American Oscars held their debut in West Berlin — that year, in which a double-premiere of the West German movie "Ödipussi" by the comedian Loriot united East and West Berlin's film-going public in laughing. A premiere that, in this respect, was going to stay the only one of its kind in divided Germany.

Berlin as reflected in its memorial days: 25 years ago, still split while leading the way as European Capital of Culture to a soon to be united continent. Fifty years ago, a speech that many Germans will never forget: John F. Kennedy's speech in front of the Rathaus Schöneberg, in which he considered West Berlin to be an island of freedom, and declared that "all free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin." Sixty years ago, a black day in German history: the violent suppression of the 1953 uprising in East Berlin and the whole of the GDR on June 17. Until the year 1990, this June 17 was the Day of German Unity, memorial and national day of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The European rapprochement process of the '70s and '80s also encouraged the East-West German rapprochement, just as the German reunification had a strong impact on the ongoing integration advances in Europe. Twenty-four years after, there are still differences in society just as there are in culture. However, is it necessary to always strive for perfection, is it actually possible to ever complete a unification process of this kind? Isn't the German unification process also a reflection of what we are experiencing in Europe? United in diversity. Unity, and at the same time diversity. A shared identity and at the same time entirely different.

Therefore, in order to maintain lasting vitality, ideals such as the one of European unity need to be fueled. In that regard, culture has a special bonding force in Europe. Substantial for this can be identity-establishing projects such as the European Capital of Culture or the European Year of Citizens, which is held this year and aims at minting a sense of European citizenship by hosting events all over Europe and helping shape Europe through a civil societal debate.

But what exactly makes one



Rapprochement: Charlemagne (742-814), also known as Charles the Great, was the King of the Franks from 768 and reached the height of his power in 800 when he was crowned the first Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Leo III. Called the Father of Europe, Charlemagne's empire united most of Western Europe for the first time since the Roman Empire. DE.GLORIA.TV

feel a citizen of Europe? Developing a European identity is not that kind of job you can wrap up offhandedly. Identity and sense of community are slowly built up through shared moments in history, through a culture of remembrance, through the exchange of current culture.

The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen promotes the appreciation of European tradition and every year honors outstanding personages and institutions, who worked with extraordinary commitment toward the European rapprochement. This award has been named after the emperor Charles the Great, whose death will have its 1,200th anniversary in 2014, and has led to various exhibitions and publications already. For many, Charlemagne was the first to unite, for some even to found, Europe in the Middle Ages. The president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, specifies the European ideal in his speech on the occasion of the award of the Charlemagne Prize in 2013 as "states and peoples reaching out across borders, across cultural, economic and linguistic divides to create common institutions because they have understood that they are stronger together than alone — that is the European ideal." Recently there has also been established the Charlemagne Youth Prize, awarded to original and border-crossing projects in media, culture and education.

Of course, awards and initiatives like these are not reserved for Europeans only. Many beautiful places are already thriving

as "East Asian Capitals of Culture" right now. And, who knows, maybe one day there will be a similar institutionalization and establishment of an East Asian Capital of Culture? The respective movements in arts and culture, biennial and triennial galas and festivals in the Asian Pacific region, are drawing global attention to their respective sites. There are examples like the Asia Pacific Film Festival (APFF), which demonstrates the ideal of diversity and unity every year since 1954. As one of the oldest film festivals of Asia, the APFF presents — suiting the idea of an annually alternating Asian Capital of Film — movies of 19 different nations every year in another Asian country. And just a few days ago Japan's Culture Minister Hakubun Shimomura nominated Yokohama to become Japan's first "culture city" beside Gwangju in South Korea and Quanzhou in China in a mutual initiative for East Asia Cities of Culture.

A Capital of Culture stands, just as cultural institutions and mediators do, for the sensitization of a mutual cultural understanding and, especially, for the border-crossing effort to support open exchange and acceptance between diverse cultures. The Goethe-Institut and its partners assist in trying to have a good, linking spirit contribute with the means and might of the arts to unity in freedom. In Japan, the Goethe-Institut has gotten to work for this purpose in partnership for more than 50 years already, on the basis of a Japanese-German friendship that has persisted for more than 150 years.

Congratulations
to the People of Germany
on the Occasion of
the 23rd Anniversary of
the Day of German Unity



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