

Begrüßung durch Prof. Dr. Masahiko Hayashi, Direktor des JSPS Bonn Office (auf Englisch)

Dr. Sicks, Dr. Hesse, Dr. Krüßmann, Rektor Hoch, Consul General Iwama, Ms. Fischer-Appelt, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen: Thank you very much for joining us this JSPS Abend.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet all of you after 3 years of absence. Because of the Corona pandemic, we were unable to hold this annual event for the last two years. In addition, there is war still going on in Ukraine. I would like to express my deep sympathy to those who are affected by these developments. We would like to do our best to support those people in a way that a funding agency can do.

We have here today representatives from our partner agencies in Germany, DAAD, Humboldt Foundation, and DFG. We also have representatives from German universities such as Bonn, Bochum, Cologne, and Düsseldorf. We have representatives from Japanese universities, too, like Tsukuba, Nagoya, and Tenri. We have guests from research-related Organizations like Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Institut Francais Bonn, JST, and DLR. From business sectors, we have guests from DJG, DJW, Japanese Chamber of Commerce Düsseldorf, and our landlord Wissenschaftszentrum. Some Japanese PIs in Germany and neighboring countries are also participating. Guests are also from the National Science and Technology Council Taiwan, Japanese Culture Institute in Cologne, and German JSPS Alumni Association. We also have guests today representing the Japanese government, from the Embassy of Japan and Consulate General in Düsseldorf. On this occasion, I would like to particularly express my special thanks to Consul General Iwama, who provided generous support for many of our German fellows to enter Japan during the pandemic. Now, all the distinguished guests, thank you very much again for your participation tonight.

This year, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science is celebrating the 90th anniversary of its foundation. Over this period, JSPS has developed and implemented a wide variety of programs, aimed at contributing to the advancement of science across the humanities, social and natural sciences.

Those programs embody our five major functions:

1. Fostering young researchers;
2. Promoting international scientific cooperation;
3. Awarding research grants as Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research;
4. Supporting scientific cooperation between the academic community and industry; and
5. Collecting and distributing information on scientific research activities.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the JSPS Bonn Office. Our Office was established with an aim of promoting scientific cooperation between Japan and Germany. The Bonn Office has been working to implement and publicize JSPS programs, as well as supporting Japanese universities that have activities in Germany.

Throughout the years, we have been enjoying smooth operation of our activities. This is because of the generous support we receive from all of you and particularly from our partner agencies in Germany. We are thus grateful to DAAD, Humboldt Foundation and DFG for their continuous support and cooperation.

With DAAD, we have almost 50 years of collaborative relationship since 1973. DAAD nominates our Postdoctoral Fellows for short-term research in Japan. They also nominate Summer Program fellows. The Summer Program is a starting point for young German researchers to get interested in Japan. We hold an orientation together every year and DAAD provides support for them. DAAD is also our partner organization for Bilateral Programs for Joint Research based on MoU.

We also have almost 50 years of partnership with the Humboldt Foundation. JSPS has been partly supporting Japanese Humboldt fellows to come to Germany. We have been also asking the Humboldt Foundation to nominate JSPS Postdoctoral Fellows for the Standard program and partly for the Short-term research. JSPS and the Humboldt Foundation jointly hold a Frontiers of Science Symposium every year, inviting young preeminent researchers from each country. They get together for a week or so packed in a hotel and exchange their research interests. The symposium has become a tripartite one since 2017 including the United States National Academy of Sciences.

With DFG, JSPS started collaboration from 1992, and we are running many joint programs to support bilateral research collaborations, such as the Joint Seminars and International Joint Research. We also promote exchange between universities in Japan and Germany with the Japanese-German Graduate Externship program. In addition, the JSPS Bonn Office has been working together with DFG for organizing events like Roundtable, Joint symposia and even JSPS Abend in 2019 last time.

Among the universities in Germany, we are very much indebted to Bonn University as we are located here in Bonn. From the Bonn University, we always receive so many opportunities to get familiar with the academic events in Germany. We are also provided

with many occasions to introduce our programs to the future generations of researchers in Germany, thus allowing us to expand our network here in Bonn and in Germany.

The JSPS Bonn Office has also built a strong partnership with the JSPS Club, the German JSPS Alumni Association of former JSPS fellows. Today, we have Club members from Aachen, Braunschweig, Essen, and Munich. The JSPS Club was established in 1995 by volunteers.

It initiated and has been carrying out activities that maintain and strengthen ties between Japanese and German researchers. The executive board members of the Club, with Prof. Menkhaus as chair, have made great strides in organizing the association to accommodate and mobilize a growing membership of about 500. I would like to take this opportunity to praise our German alumni for their devoted efforts and fruitful activities.

Extending our heartiest appreciation to all of you for your cooperation, I hope our Bonn Office will continue to receive your close and friendly support.

Now I am very much looking forward to starting this event tonight giving you an opportunity to enjoy each other's company on this pleasant, early autumn evening.

Thank you very much.