

Introductory remarks

Opening of the 11. jointly organized symposium in Germany on frontiers of cancer research in Bremen on April 21. and 22. 2006

By Prof. Dr. Heinrich Menkhaus

Dear Prof. Tanaka,

Dear Dr. Schütte,

Dear Mr. Haas.

Distinguished speakers and conveners

Dear members of the JSPS-Club,

Dear Fellows of JSPS and STA

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you on behalf of the JSPS-Club to our 11. Symposium in Germany again organized in close cooperation with JSPS Office in Bonn.

In September last year we had our first common symposium in Japan to present the club within the so-called year Germany in Japan, which officially lasted till the end of march. Under the title "Urban Planning-Sustainable Cities" a couple of German and Japanese researchers dealt with the very timely problem of sustainable energy. The proceedings will soon be published on the homepage of the club and for those of you, who participated and those who would like to get an impression of the atmosphere during the conference and the additional program in Japan, please join club-member Rüdiger Reischuk, who as a participant will show you a video on our trip to Tokyo later this afternoon.

Obviously we choose a very timely topic for this conference as well. The German public television channel ARD recently featured a cancer related program for a whole week. And this very evening the Bremer city hall is hosting what is called a gala against cancer. That easily explains why we are missing today the traditional welcome remarks of the mayor. What I do not understand however is why he did not invite all of us over to the gala so that he would have chance to meet us anyway.

The development of membership in the club is quite promising. As of today we have 148 members. Of the new members, I would like to mention Mr. Higuchi, the manager of the JSPS office in Bonn, who is the first in this position to join the club. This number however is not enough, given the high potential of more than 1000 German scientists who so far have been supported by JSPS or up to 2001 by the Science and Technology Agency. As the club is expected to shoulder a greater burden in the financing of the joint conferences, we have to recruit new members and am thinking about a new model of restructuring the financial burden between the participants, JSPS and the club, which will favour the club members.

I would like to greet some people in particular. First of all Dr. Schütte of the Humboldt Foundation. As you all know the cooperation with the Humboldt-Foundation is very close since the start of the club. The board of the club is invited to all follow up meetings of the Foundation, where fellows who return from abroad meet the newly elected fellows who are on their way abroad. There the board of the club, the representatives of the JSPS office in Bonn and the incoming and outgoing fellows always form a Japan group which allows a very intensive conversation about Japan. As a follow up happens just today in Bonn, neither JSPS office staff nor club board members can be present, the club is represented by our member Dr. Thomas Spaniol from the Technical University in Aachen, whom I would like to thank at this point.

Again this year the Humboldt-Foundation has invited the Japanese fellows who happen to be in Germany at the very time of this conference. Two of our Japanese guests I would like to mention: First Prof. Ishibe Masasuke, who for a long time held one of the two chairs for German law in Japan and whom I personally happen to know for a long time. And secondly Prof. Mitsuyu Mariko, who is actually a Humboldt fellow from medical school, but was recently appointed Prof. at the Music academy in Leipzig. She will present us some Japanese piano plays right before dinner today.

Finally I would like to mention that the Humboldt-Foundation is managing the scholarships of the two Humboldt alumni associations in Japan for Germany has appointed a representative of JSPS- club into the selection committee.

Last year the club was accepted as member of the federation of German-Japanese associations in Germany. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the federation through Wolfgang Haas, who as president of the German-Japanese Association in Bremen just was so kind to deliver us his welcome remarks.

Let me finally invite the members of the club to our next event "Members invite Members" on November 10. and 11. this year in Düsseldorf. We are invited by member Dr. Ludger Neumann, who is working there for the cosmetics house L'Oreal. We will also have a chance to see something of the rich Japanese environment in Düsseldorf. Last but not least I would like to invite members of the JSPS-Club including those, who only decide during this conference to become member, to join the general assembly at 1.30 tomorrow afternoon in the room behind the audience.

Thank you for your attention.