

Grußwort von Herrn Generalkonsul Ryuta MIZUUCHI
anlässlich des **JSPS-Abends 2016 am 08.09.2016**, im Hotel Bristol, Bonn

Ms. Kobayashi,

[Director International. Program Department Japan Society for the Promotion of Science],

Thank you very much for your introductory remarks.

Prof. Kodaira [Prof. Dr. Keiichi Kodaira, Direktor, JSPS Bonn Office],

Prof. Menkhaus

[Vorsitzender, Deutsche Gesellschaft der JSPS-Stipendiaten e.V., Meiji University, Tokyo],

Dr. Hesse [Dr. Thomas Hesse = Stellvertretender Generalsekretär, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung],

Prof. Hase [Prof. Toshiharu Hase, Direktor, Osaka University Europe Centre “Protein and Society“],

Leading Academics from Japan and Germany,

Dear Colleagues from Taiwan and Korea,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to speak in front of you at the “JSPS Evening 2016” in this festive setting. I would like first of all to extend my sincere appreciation to Prof. Kodaira and JSPS Bonn Office for the kind invitation. For the Consulate General of Japan in Düsseldorf it is a privilege to have JSPS Office in Bonn, because many academic activities involving prominent Japanese and German institutions can be promoted and developed from the State of North-Rhine Westphalia, the most populous Bundesland in Germany with an intensive network of universities and other academic institutions, as well as advanced industrial and technological infrastructure.

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science has been playing a central role for the advancement of science in Japan and academic exchanges with overseas. Through its Bonn Office which was founded 25 years ago it works closely with numerous partners in Germany, such as the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, The German Research Foundation, The German Academic Exchange Service and a variety of universities.

Since a number of Japanese institutions involved in the academic exchanges are situated in this province, our Consulate General works very closely with JSPS, Cultural Institute

of Japan in Cologne and other representatives Offices of Japanese Universities in Germany. We appreciate very much that information exchange meetings are held regularly to share information and promote better coordination in our work. Within the framework of this information exchange we are very pleased to note that over the past year JSPS has been successfully engaged in exchange programs for researchers and many other activities.

Out of these efforts, a Collaboration Agreement was worked out, for instance, between the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf and the Kumamoto University. Another achievement was the establishment of JANET, a network of Japanese academic stations in Europe, which has now expanded the geographical scope of cooperation and networking from Germany alone to the Northern Europe. The JANET Forum 2016 was held in June 30th this year in Berlin at the Free University, my colleagues of our Embassy in Berlin were also present on that occasion.

These examples only underline the important role the JSPS Bonn Office plays. I personally experienced recently that RWTH Aachen and Keio University also have been successfully conducting Summer School programs for young engineer students of Keio over the past 10 years – like the cooperation that has been promoted by other universities. This reminds me of the intensity of partnerships between Japanese and German universities that are extended nationwide. Let me express my hope that academic exchanges between Japan and Germany will yet further strengthened in the future as well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In recognition of the outstanding accomplishments such as those I have just mentioned, the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation was awarded in the year 2014 to the JSPS Alumni Association, and last year to Professor Kodaira, director of the JSPS Bonn Office. Furthermore, Prof. Michiko Mae – who is present here this evening - and Prof. Gisela Trommsdorff of the University of Konstanz, both of whom are part of our network, also received this award this year – in recognition of their achievements in the field of academic exchanges between Japan and Germany. I take this opportunity to offer my personal congratulations to them. Please join me also in celebrating them.

Finally, let me briefly touch upon the city of Bonn, known to everybody as the

long-standing political center of Germany as the Federal Capital during the time of the Cold War, but also as the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven. In 2020, when Tokyo will be hosting the Olympic Games in Japan, Bonn will be celebrating Beethoven's 250th birth year. 2018 – two years in advance – will be the 100 years' anniversary of the 9th Symphony in Japan since its first performance. I'm wondering if these auspicious celebrations would offer opportunities for Bonn to forge a partnership with an equivalent city in Japan. Any suggestions and ideas in this regard will be highly appreciated. I will then take up this topic when I have a chance to talk with the Mayor of Bonn.

In concluding, I would like to express once again my profound thanks to JSPS for its wonderful work which contributed to building close and trustful bonds between Japanese and German academic institutions. I hope that this evening will serve as a good opportunity for exchanging views and updating networks among JSPS alumni and beyond. Last but not least, I wish JSPS all the success, academic institutions of Japan and Germany continued fruitful exchanges in the future – and good luck and all the best to you.

Thank you very much for your attention!