03.05.2017/Be

Greetings Consul General Ryuta Mizuuchi

Friday, 12th of Mai 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

DJW-Symposium

"H2 Technology as a Solution? - The Influence of Japan and Germany on the Future Global Energy Mix", Herten

Venue: Hydrogenic City Herten,
(on the site of the old "Ewald" colliery in Herten, today "Revue Palast Herten"),
Werner-Heisenberg-Strasse 2−4, 45699 Herten
Time: 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. including lunch reception

Dear Dr. Horzetzky, (State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy and Industry of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia),
Dear Mr. Nagai, (Director General, NEDO Representative Office in Europe)
Dear Dr. Kattenstein, (Head of Fuel Cell, Hydrogen and Electro Mobility Network NRW, EnergieAgentur. NRW)
Dear Mr. Wiesheu, (Chairman, DJW)
Dear Dr. Vondran,
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today in Herten on the occasion of the DJW Symposium 2017. First of all, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers for their efforts to hold this symposium in this outset, and welcome all the participants who have come a long way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Energiewende” (Turning Point of Energy) has been a keyword in the German media for a long time. In particular, the Great Earthquake in North-East Japan prompted the German Government to decide on the so-called Nuclear Exit (if you follow the example of BREXIT, this may be called Nexit or Nuclexit in English) following the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Moreover, NRW is facing the challenge of terminating the coal-based power production, so that the CO2 emission will be reduced.

A long-term comprehensive energy policy is also a matter of great importance and urgency in Japan, just because of the need to re-establish the stability and sustainability of energy supply after the Great Earthquake 2011. Although some of the suspended nuclear power plants are being slowly brought back to operation in accordance with the newly established, extremely stringent safety standards, nuclear will not be the main source of energy any longer in the future. Therefore we need alternative energies.

Against this background, great efforts are being undertaken in Japan to promote renewable energy such as wind power or solar energy. It is in this context that Japan’s further focus is hydrogen.

Hydrogen is one of the most common substances on the earth. Two-thirds of the surface of the earth is covered by the ocean, meaning that “Dihydrogen Monoxide (H2O)” is everywhere. And yet, hydrogen as a simple substance is not easy to handle, particularly with regard to the storage in the form of gas. In Japan, both public and private initiatives have thus been undertaken in many ways in the field of research and development, and NEDO has been one of the main players in this regard.

Today, it is my great pleasure to welcome Mr. Takehiro NAGAI, Director General of NEDO Representative Office in Europe who, I suppose, will mainly focus on Japan's efforts in his introductory speech. I also welcome Dr. Thomas Kattenstein, Head of Fuel Cell, Hydrogen and Electro-Mobility Network NRW, EnergieAgentur NRW, who will enlighten us on the German situation, as well.

On my part, I have also been working to promote the use of hydrogen power in Germany, in particular, by presenting TOYOTA's innovative hydrogen-driven car, MIRAI, to the media, as well as to the general public, such as on the occasion of the "NRW-Tag" in August last year. Representatives of the Japanese Community in Dusseldorf were led by the MIRAI for the festive parade on the streets of the old town of Dusseldorf and were greeted by the public with great interest and enthusiasm. When the parade was cheered up by the Prime Minister of NRW, Mrs. Hannelore Kraft, I handed over to her a bottle of mineral water I had, saying, "Please accept the water produced by MIRAI, the future of mankind." I hope she understood my joke on that occasion.

By the way, the largest experiment concerning the hydrogen power is now undertaken in Fukushima. It is now the focal point of hydrogen society of Japan, providing the largest hydrogen production capabilities nationwide. As cooperation between NRW and Fukushima has been successfully intensified through the efforts of both sides, particularly with regard to the field of renewable energy, I hope very much to see similar cooperation be developed by the authorities of both Fukushima and NRW concerning the use of hydrogen. Dr. Kattenstein will certainly be kind enough to report back to his Agency about today's symposium and

make some recommendations to the Government of NRW about possible future cooperation. And I hope this symposium will thus contribute to further concrete cooperation between Japan and NRW.

In this sense I wish everybody attending this symposium great success with many interesting interventions and contributions.

Thank you very much for your attention.