

**Grußwort von Herrn Generalkonsul Ryuta Mizuuchi zur Eröffnung der Ausstellung
„Krupp statt Kölner Dom: Die Iwakura-Mission in Deutschland 1873“
im Veranstaltungszentrum der Ruhr-Universität Bochum am 5. Juli 2018 um 19:30 Uhr**

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Professor Schölmerich,
Professor Pantzer,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor and pleasure to speak in front of you on the occasion of the Japan Science Days held at the Ruhr University Bochum and, in particular, at the opening of a special exhibition which the Japanese Consulate General was able to organize, hoping that it will add values and some diversity to the Science Days. We named it „Krupp instead of Cologne Cathedral: The Iwakura Mission in Germany 1873“.

First, I would like to congratulate the Ruhr University Bochum for successfully launching this “Science Days” dedicated to Japan. At the same time, I am most happy that the University was so kind to let us organize our own event.

The “Japan Science Days” are designed to promote discussions among Japanese and German scientists on problems that might emerge in the scientific field in the wake of furtherance of digitalization of the economy. I fully agree that digitalization does affect the thinking or working methods of scientists considerably, since scientific institutions are indeed undergoing changes that are driven by the digitalization of economy as well as society. I very much hope that the discussions that took place today already brought about fruitful conclusions, or at least some clues to possible solution models.

Now, our contributions to the Japan Science Days are based on the assumption that we can not only learn from the experiences of Japanese and German scientists of today, but also from our shared history in the 19th Century.

First, let me remind you that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the first performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony in Japan. It was performed by the German POWs as a result of World War I.

Next, this year marks also the 150th anniversary of Meiji Restoration, in other words, the dawn of Japan’s modernization. It is in this context that the Meiji-Government dispatched a high-level mission to the US and Europe in the year 1871, headed by Iwakura Tomomi, representative of the aristocratic class of the Meiji-Government.

This mission did contribute to the modernization of Japan in many fields. It culminated, for example, in the promulgation of the first modern Constitution of Japan and establishment of the Parliament, thus enabling Japan to take the first steps toward parliamentary democracy with the Monarch on its top.

In the industrial field, the mission tried to gather first-hand information on – had people at that time known our jargon of the 21st Century – what they would have called “Industry 1.0” or the

first industrial revolution in major countries in the West. You can very well imagine that this has caused huge substantial changes to the traditional lifestyle of the Japanese society and people at that time.

In Germany, the mission traveled to Berlin and was received in audience by Kaiser Wilhelm I. Iwakura held talks with the first Chancellor of Germany, Otto von Bismarck. However, until quite recently I was not aware that this mission also paid a visit to Essen and the Krupp factory.

This is where I come to introduce to you today's lecturer on this topic. He happens to be an old friend of mine from my earlier stay in Vienna. I am delighted to introduce to you Prof. Peter Pantzer. Recently, he became famous as translator of Waka, short poems of our Empress into German. Today, he will tell us his insights on the background of the Iwakura Mission to Essen, as well as its implications for Japan in the following time, based on the travel account of Kume Kunitake who served as the private secretary to Iwakura during this mission.

After his presentation, Professor Pantzer will be happy to answer any questions you might wish to raise later. I do hope that you will be able to learn more about this exciting time and the scientific exchanges that took place 110 years ago between Japan and Germany in the face of Industry 1.0.

I wish you all a wonderful evening with interesting conversations and chances for networking.

Thank you very much for your attention.