



»The most precious fruit of the summer school for me was friendship with all participants from Germany and Japan.«

KAWAKITA Atsuko, participant 2006,
The University of Tokyo



German-Japanese
Young Leaders Forum

Participants

In the past, participants have included prospective leaders from Deutsche Bank, SAP, Sumitomo Chemical, the Social Science Research Center Berlin, German and Japanese ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs, Horiba Ltd., Freudenberg, Shiseido, ThyssenKrupp, Bayer HealthCare, Volkswagen, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, DIE ZEIT, Yomiuri Shimbun, and various other institutions and top universities.

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»Well organized schedule,
vigorous discussions, informative
guest speakers, collaborative
working group activities...
The meeting with Dr. Angela
Merkel, the German Chancellor
made this summer school
memorable«

ODA Atsushi, participant 2007, Horiba, Ltd.

In 2006, the Robert Bosch Stiftung in cooperation with the Japanese-German Center Berlin [JDZB] established an annual German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum.

Program Goals

The Young Leaders Forum is a future-oriented program that intends to inform prospective leaders from Germany and Japan about socially and politically relevant issues and viewpoints. It offers a forum for intense discussions, thereby seeking to promote and deepen mutual understanding. Over the long term, personal contacts shall be developed to strengthen networks between Germany and Japan.

Structure

The annual program is held alternately in Germany and Japan. After an intensive summer school workshop with eminent leaders and experts, the program continues with further political talks, visits to institutions and companies as well as a cultural program.

The Target Group

The program addresses young prospective leaders from various professions (8 Germans and 8 Japanese).

These should be recommended by key persons from private companies or public institutions in the fields of politics, business, research, media or administration. They should be between 25 and 35 years old and speak English fluently.

Funding

The program is funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and organized by the JDZB. Basic expenditure for the Young Leaders Forum will be met by the organizers (flight and travel, accommodation, transport, meals).

The Robert Bosch Stiftung was established in 1964 and is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. It represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of its founder Robert Bosch (1861–1942). The Robert Bosch Stiftung works predominantly in the fields of International Relations, Health and Education. The Japanese-German Center Berlin [JDZB] is a foundation under German private law and was established to promote and strengthen Japanese-German and international cooperation in the fields of science and culture, and their relation to business. It is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Government of Berlin.

2011 marks the 150th jubilee of the beginning of relations between Japan and Germany. At the same time, both countries face an era of profound change due to, among others, the economic and financial crisis, the decline in birth rates and the super-annuation of the population, and the contraction in national economies. With a view to the further development of Japanese-German relations, I consider it particularly meaningful that young people, who function as the pillars of our countries in the 21st century, sharpen their discernment of the future, and cultivate a shared feeling of purpose and friendship. It is my hope that this program will contribute to helping young leaders from Japan and Germany shape our two countries' shared history for at least another 150 years.



Dr. Takahiro Shinyo, Ambassador of Japan to Germany

The German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum offers young and prospective leaders of both our countries a superb forum to discuss and develop common perspectives in regard to the big global challenges of our time. By participating in this ambitious program, the young leaders are presented with the opportunity to exchange their views on the necessity of joint international actions and possible approaches in finding a solution for the pressing problems – be it climate control or the international financial crisis. Moreover, as future alumni they greatly contribute to deepening our friendly bilateral ties even further.



Dr. Volker Stanzel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan