

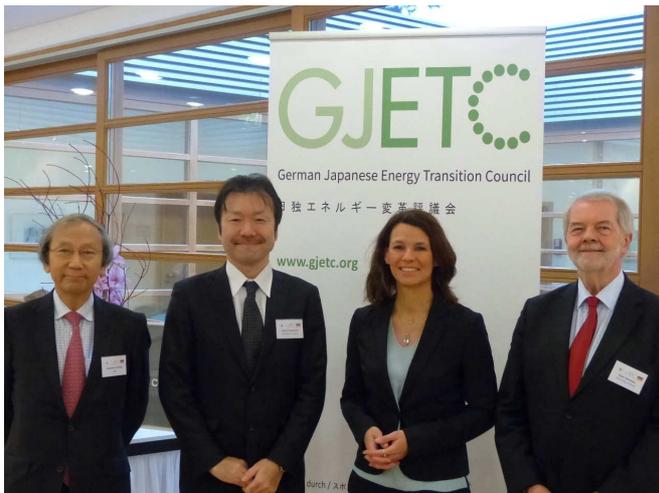
Press release

The role of decentralized actors for the energy transition

German-Japanese Expert Council (GJETC) discusses in Berlin how energy consumers can become energy producers and drivers of renewable power generation.

Berlin/Tokyo, 24 January 2017. This Tuesday, the GJETC is meeting in Berlin. During the second meeting of the council, the members of the binational expert council are discussing the chances and challenges of a structural change in energy supply with 16 representatives of the decentralized energy industry from Germany and Japan.

“The decentralization of energy supply is a key dimension of the energy transition. In the future, there might even be a tendency that millions of energy consumers could turn into ‘prosumers’ with their own generation capacities delivering electricity to the grid at times of surpluses. Therefore, the GJETC is especially interested in studying the consequences of the energy transition and the role of decentralization in Japan and Germany,” says Prof. Dr. Peter Hennicke, the German Chairman of the GJETC.



2nd GJETC Council Meeting in Berlin (from l. to r.): Prof. Masakazu Toyoda (Co-Chair GJETC), Dr. Kotaro Kawamata (Embassy of Japan), Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter (Parliamentary Secretary of State, BMUB) and Prof. Dr. Peter Hennicke (Co-Chair GJETC)

Structural change towards more decentralized and citizen-oriented producers than in the past also offers great economic opportunities for rural areas through the local operation of biomass, photovoltaic and wind power plants. Germany has had the chance to gain extensive experience concerning the decentralization of the energy supply for several years, for example with co-financed cooperatives and bioenergy villages. In Japan, this development is still in its infancy following the next stage of the liberalization of power and gas markets in 2016 and 2017 respectively. However, the "1st World

Community Power Conference" in Fukushima in early November 2016 showed a great interest also in Japan. The GJETC's stakeholder dialogue on decentralization therefore provides a platform for illuminating the country-specific economic, social and cultural challenges and learning from each other.

Yesterday, the Council met for the first part of its two-day meeting at the Japanese-German Center in Berlin-Zehlendorf. In December 2016, the GJETC had already awarded four studies from its study program to external consortia. The topics address key energy policy and economic issues in both countries. The main focus lies on climate and resource-conserving long-term strategies (until 2050), the overall economic and social importance of an energy transition, electricity market design and the promotion of energy saving strategies. During the second meeting, the GJETC discussed the concepts and methods presented by the German-Japanese study participants.

The Japanese Chairman of the GJETC, Prof. Masakazu Toyoda, gave a preview on the Council's work at the final press conference: "With the study concepts presented today, we have taken a major step towards a joint overall report. By the next meeting of the GJETC in September 2017, we expect tangible results for four comprehensive individual studies. Thereafter, the Council will draw its conclusions from these studies and from a wide range of expert advice documents and make its recommendations for a successful energy transition in Germany and Japan to industry, society and politics."

About the GJETC:

In its form, continuity and size, the GJETC is the first German-Japanese project of climate cooperation. It was founded in close collaboration of hennicke.consult, the Wuppertal Institute, ECOS Consult and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) in spring 2016 with strong support by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (German Federal Environmental Foundation, DBU), the Mercator Foundation, German Federal Foreign Office (FFO), Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and is also endorsed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). On the German side, the Wuppertal Institute and ECOS Consult support the council's work as secretariats; on the Japanese side, the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) takes over this part. The council will convene biannually, and the next council meeting will be held in Tokyo in September 2017.

For further information please go to: www.gjetc.org

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