

Press release

German GJETC Chairman receives “Order of the Rising Sun” from Japanese Government

Berlin/Tokyo, 10 May 2021: On 29 April 2021, the Japanese government awarded the Co-Chair of the German Japanese Energy Transition Council (GJETC), Prof. Dr. Peter Hennicke, with the “Order of the Rising Sun Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon”. This is one of Japan's highest awards to individuals who have made a significant contribution to Japanese culture and society. Prof. Hennicke receives the Order for his ongoing commitment and work for the GJETC. The official awarding ceremony of the Order is planned for the next GJETC Council meeting in September 2021 at the Embassy of Japan in Berlin.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Toshimitsu Motegi conveyed his congratulations to Prof. Hennicke, who expressed his gratitude for the award: “I feel this honourable order as a great encouragement for the GJETC’s work to intensify our cooperation. The award shows that we have jointly created an international role model for scientific cooperation. Despite different framework conditions and energy policy priorities, we have managed to establish a continuous, science-based exchange of knowledge and joined pathways in search for ways to achieve climate neutrality for our countries.”

The award of the Order to Prof. Hennicke by the Japanese government is an expression of appreciation for the GJETC's work and its policy recommendations. The Council was founded in 2016 and is composed of 16 renowned German and Japanese energy experts. Together, the GJETC established science-based cooperation between the two countries on issues of global warming and the energy transition. Since its founding, the Council has produced numerous analyses, held Outreach events in Berlin and Tokyo and formulated recommendations on the energy transition to the Japanese and German governments in support of the German-Japanese Energy Partnership.

“The new global climate policy dynamics, driven by more ambitious GHG reduction targets of the EU, China and now also the USA, are opening up encouraging perspectives and new opportunities for the German-Japanese Energy Partnership,” Prof. Hennicke continues. “My colleagues in the GJETC and I consider this as an obligation to contribute as much as possible to accelerated climate protection as well as to develop pathways to a low-risk energy system and a just socio-ecological transformation.”



About the GJETC

The German-Japanese Energy Transition Cooperation Council is an international model to strengthen knowledge exchange on technologies, policies and the impacts of the energy transition. In its form, continuity and size, the GJETC is the first German-Japanese cooperation project on the energy transition of its kind. Founded in spring 2016, the Council conducts an extensive study program on core topics of the energy transition, holds stakeholder dialogues with industry and civil society, and has published eleven studies, a series of strategic input papers, and two reports with key recommendations for a successful energy transition in March 2018 and June 2020.

The project, jointly launched by the Wuppertal Institute, ECOS, hennicke.consult and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ/Tokyo) was funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU), the Mercator Foundation and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in working phase 1 and 2. In the 3rd phase of the council's work, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) takes over funding for the GJETC from the DBU.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), and the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) also support the project. On the German side, the Wuppertal Institute is coordinating the Council's work as secretariat together with ECOS; on the Japanese side, the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) had been doing this task.

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