



## Press release

# German-Japanese Energy Transition Council (GJETC) to continue in 2021 with new supporter

**Berlin, 12 January 2021. After four years of successful work, the GJETC can continue its operation. On the German side, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) has taken over the funding of the joint research project from the German Federal Environment Foundation (DBU). On the Japanese side, the Ministry of Economy and Industry (METI) is supporting the GJETC.**

Especially the Members of the Parliament, Dr. Matthias Miersch and Klaus Mindrup as well as the former State Secretary Michael Müller, all members of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, had spoken out in favor of a prolongation of the German-Japanese Energy Council and successfully put the continuation of the GJETC on the agenda of the German government's budget committee.

Dr. Matthias Miersch commented: "Our aim is for all countries to be able to live and operate in a climate-neutral and environmentally friendly way by the middle of the century at the latest. This requires innovative, international cooperation, shared visions for a climate-friendly future and a solid scientific basis for new technologies to protect the climate. If fossil fuels must be phased out, it is necessary to ensure that there are economically viable and socially acceptable alternatives. The GJETC approach in which scientists from two high-tech countries jointly and scientifically independent search for solutions to problems, can serve as a model for science-based cooperation for achieving ambitious climate goals. For this reason, I am supporting the GJETC."

Klaus Mindrup adds: "For years, I have been working intensively for the implementation of the energy transition in Germany and Japan. Time is short. We all bear responsibility for the world in which our children and grandchildren grow up. That's why we need a much more ambitious climate policy. This can only be done on the basis of scientific findings and in close cooperation with industry at the same time. In recent years, the GJETC has demonstrated how fertile an international and diverse exchange can be with regard to the energy transition. That is why I support the continuation of the GJETC and its cooperation with the German-Japanese Energy Partnership."

### **Extensive scientific exchange**

Germany and Japan face similar challenges in their energy sector development: Both highly industrialized countries have set themselves the task of making their energy supply climate- and resource-friendly as quickly as possible. Prof. Dr. Peter Henricke, the German co-chair of the GJETC, explains the Council's possible new role: "On the verge of the G20 Summit in Japan in June 2019, the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry signed a declaration on closer cooperation within the framework of a German-Japanese Energy Partnership. The GJETC will continue to closely exchange information with the Energy



Partnership as an independent institution. We do not want parallel structures, but rather aim to contribute towards maximizing synergies, especially in the initiation and scientific support of German-Japanese pilot projects." Thus, the GJETC's work will continue to be based on the scientific exchange of ideas and practical findings. The current organization will remain unchanged: Proven experts from both countries will intensively consult on the core topics of the energy transition, develop studies, address recommendations to policymakers and cooperate with all stakeholders.

The GJETC chairman on the Japanese side, Prof. Masakazu Toyoda, emphasized the importance of the exchange: "It remains our goal to bring together the views and knowledge of experts from industry, politics and science. For a successful energy transition, the decisive action of all stakeholders is indispensable. We are proud that we could develop the GJETC into a role model of international scientific policy consulting. By mutual learning about the chances and risks of the energy transition in our countries, barriers can be abolished faster and the transformation towards a decarbonized and low-risk energy system can be accelerated."

#### ***About the GJETC***

The German-Japanese Energy Transition Council is an international model project to strengthen the exchange of knowledge over technologies, policies and the effects of the energy transition. In its form, continuity and size, the GJETC is the first German-Japanese project of cooperation on the energy transition. Founded in spring 2016, the Council carried out an extensive study program on core subjects of the energy transition, held stakeholder dialogues with the industry and civil society and published four studies, a row of strategical input papers and a report including key recommendations for a successful energy transition with joint recommendations in March 2018.

GJETC is a joint project of the Wuppertal Institute, ECOS Consult, hennicke.consult, and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). It is also endorsed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB). 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.

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