

Press Release

Building must become more sustainable: GJETC discusses necessary framework conditions in Tokyo

Berlin / Tokyo, 15 February 2023. If ambitious climate goals are to be achieved, all sectors of the economy and society must be put to the test. The German-Japanese Cooperation Council on the Energy Transition (GJETC) will take a closer look at the construction and real estate industry at its next council meeting in Tokyo and, in a public stakeholder dialogue on March 3rd, will exchange ideas with industry representatives on the political framework for the accelerated decarbonization of the building sector.

The construction sector absorbs a huge amount of resources - not only for the operation of the buildings, but also for the energy used in the construction itself, and for the upstream and downstream transport, handling and storage processes. How these complex processes can be made climate-neutral in the future, or at least organized in a significantly more sustainable way, is the subject of a current study by the GJETC, which will be presented at the council meeting held in Tokyo at the beginning of March and the subsequent stakeholder dialogue.

“Political objectives and the framework conditions for resource-saving construction must be precisely evaluated, and the positive effects in the case of announced regulatory adjustments must be described. Here we see the added value of the Council’s exchange with industry representatives and in the advice to political decision-makers in Germany and Japan as a central feature of GJETC’s work,” says Prof. Tatsuya Terazawa, the Japanese co-chair of the GJETC. His German counterpart, Dr. Stefan Thomas, adds: “The construction and real estate industry must act more sustainably in the future, i.e. promote savings in non-renewable energies and materials and expand the use of alternative sources. GHG-neutral new construction can become the technical standard in both countries by 2030 at the latest, and existing buildings can also become climate-neutral by 2045 to 2050. Which policy package, connected with a set of legal regulations and an incentive system, is suitable to enable the involved stakeholders to realize these opportunities in an economically feasible and socially just manner? This is what we are striving to support as mediators for the industry and politics with our science-based competencies.”

Most recently, the GJETC compared the potential for waste heat utilization in both countries in a [topical paper](#). The study "Strategies, concepts and measures for decarbonizing the building stock by 2045/50" and another study on the decarbonization of the chemical industry, which will also be discussed at the council meeting, will be published at the end of the first quarter of 2023.



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 fourteen 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) is funded on the Japanese side by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and was funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) and the Mercator Foundation in working phase 1 and 2. In the 3rd phase of the council's work, the former German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) took over funding for the GJETC from the DBU. In the current 4th phase working phase, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Change (BMWK) is funding the Council's activities on the German side.

The Wuppertal Institute is coordinating the Council's work as secretariat together with ECOS on the German side; on the Japanese side, the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) is in charge of this task.

All recent studies can be found at: <http://www.gjetc.org/publications/>

Press contact Germany:

Christian Liepack
Medienbuero am Reichstag GmbH
Reinhardtstrasse 55
10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 2061 4130 45

E-Mail: christian.liepack@mar-berlin.de

Press contact Japan:

General Planning Group
The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan
Inui Bldg. Kachidoki 10th Floor, 13-1, Kachidoki
1-chome, Chuo-ku,
Tokyo 104-0054

Phone: +81-3-5547-0211

Fax: +81-3-5547-0223

E-Mail: contact-ieej@tky.ieej.or.jp