

## Press Release

# Energy security and decarbonization as a common goal: GJETC experts discuss potential solutions

**Berlin / Tokyo, 3 March 2023. During their regular meeting in Tokyo this week, the experts of the German-Japanese Energy Transition Cooperation Council (GJETC) discussed the current state of the energy transition in both countries and on a global level. One year after Russia started the war against Ukraine, the best possible balance between the two objectives of secure energy supply and the commitment to climate neutrality was the main focus of the energy policy part of the meeting. Representatives from science and industry also discussed options for decarbonizing the (petro)chemical industry and the building sector during the two-day symposium in Japan's capital.**

Looking back to the first winter after the start of the war by Russia against Ukraine, the countries of the European Union and the Japanese economy have come through it much better than initially predicted – both in terms of energy security and the anticipated economic slowdown. Nevertheless, there is a great need for advice to political decision-makers about the continuing dependence on fossil fuels and the search for, and use of, ecologically and economically suitable alternatives. The know-how of the German-Japanese panel and further experts invited to the meetings plays an important role in the analysis of the current situation and the evaluation of future scenarios.

“Germany intends – also with the backing of the EU – to combine the goals of an increased energy sovereignty and climate neutrality by 2045 by accelerating the expansion of the use of renewable energy sources, but also through new energy-saving activities. So far, this approach, combined with the construction of own LNG gas terminals, has been able to compensate for the Russian gas supplies suspended since the autumn of 2022. At our Council meeting in Tokyo, we were again able to debate which solutions make sense for the necessary greenhouse gas emission reduction – taking into account the partly different framework conditions of Japan and Germany,” reports Dr Stefan Thomas, German Co-Chair of the GJETC.

“If we take a look at the current circumstances regarding energy, it goes without saying that the Ukrainian situation has invigorated discussions on balancing energy security and climate change issues. In Japan, we are therefore focusing on a broader mix of technologies,” says Prof. Tatsuya Terazawa, Co-Chair of the GJETC from Japan, about the difficult task. “The role of the GJETC, which contributes scientifically to these discussions by pooling mutual knowledge and experience, is becoming increasingly important. In terms of both energy security and climate change issues, we strongly recognize that seeking a realistic and smooth energy transition, especially decarbonization while enhancing industrial competitiveness, is a common and serious challenge for both countries.”

Complementing these fundamental debates in Tokyo, the German-Japanese Cooperation Council also addressed specific industrial sectors in individual sessions regarding their energy and climate footprint



and transition processes. In a stakeholder dialogue with representatives of the German and Japanese building sector, the members intensively discussed political framework conditions and approaches to reduce emissions from existing and new buildings. The Council will publish a study on this topic at the end of the second quarter of this year. A study on the decarbonization of the (petro)chemical industry will also be published by the GJETC 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:contact-ieej@tky.ieej.or.jp)