

Press Release

GJETC discussion in the run-up to COP 28: Is the current global situation thwarting important impetus for the energy transition?

Berlin / Tokyo, 28 November 2023: In the run-up to the 28th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 28) in Dubai, the German-Japanese Energy Transition Cooperation Council is also meeting for the first council meeting of the current funding phase. Operating under the name GJETC, the panel of experts with high-calibre scientists from both countries will focus not only on specific issues relating to electricity market design and governance approaches for more efficient energy use, but above all on how to ensure that climate policy does not take a back seat in the face of the current multiple crises.

Politics is always the art of the possible. Due to the global political crisis scenarios of recent years, government action in the energy sector in many countries has focussed not least on maintaining security of supply and its affordability in the short term. In view of the continuing advance of climate change, "there must nonetheless be stronger impetus from politicians to promote the continuous expansion of energy efficiency and energy efficiency and renewable energies," emphasises Dr Stefan Thomas, German Co-Chair of the GJETC. "Global action with concrete goals, such as those that could be decided in Dubai, is the only promising solution to this fundamental challenge facing humanity. This cooperation needs to be strengthened despite the often hardened fronts between individual states - it offers opportunities, especially for Japan and Germany."

Prof Tatsuya Terazawa, the Japanese Co-Chair of the GJETC, adds in this context: "Developments in the so-called Global South and their influence on energy markets require continuous evaluation, as do the relationships between and among important players such as the G7, the EU, the People's Republic of China, the USA and the Russian Federation. In our role as advisors to decision-makers in Germany and Japan, we must repeatedly point out the short, medium and long-term consequences of new alliances and lines of conflict and make it clear what conclusions need to be drawn with regard to national energy and climate policy goals."

Aside from these fundamental debates, the GJETC also focused on new study topics at the first council meeting in the current working phase. An optimized electricity market design with more incentives for investing in flexibility, accelerated implementation of energy saving measures through improved governance, or the analysis of initiatives such as the European Green Deal or Japan's Green Transformation (GX) were discussed by the experts.

As part of the webinar series "Zoom In! - Japanese-German Energy Transition Talks", the GJETC organised an online discussion round on "Geopolitical Developments, COP 28 and their relevance for



Energy Policy in Japan and Germany" in cooperation with the Japanese-German Energy Partnership. The recording is available at gjetc.org/zoom-in.

About the GJETC

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

The project, which was jointly initiated by the Wuppertal Institute, ECOS, hennicke.consult and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ/Tokyo), is supported on the Japanese side by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). On the German side, the Council was funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) and the Mercator Foundation in the 1st and 2nd working phases. In the 3rd phase of the Cooperation Council, the former Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) took over support for the GJETC from the DBU. In the current 4th working phase, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK) is supporting the activities.

Together with ECOS, the Wuppertal Institute coordinates the Council's work as secretariat in Germany, while the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) takes on this task on the Japanese side.

The GJETC studies can be viewed and downloaded at the following link: <http://www.gjetc.org/publications/>

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