

Press Release

How can we make it? Japan and Germany on their way to the COP 28 energy goals?

Berlin / Tokyo, February 15, 2024 - At the last Climate Change Conference of the United Nations in Dubai, it was decided that the countries of the world try to triple the output of renewable energies worldwide by 2030, double energy efficiency and transitioning away from fossil fuels in the long term. Over the past two days, experts from the German-Japanese Energy Transition Cooperation Council (GJETC) met in Berlin to discuss the ambitious goals of these two countries to expand the use of renewables and to improve the protection of natural resources through more efficient technologies. Japan and Germany are making significant efforts to preserve natural resources but must also keep an eye on the requirements of energy security, economic reliability and social sustainability.

The verdict on the results of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) is ambivalent. For some, the decisions taken are a positive sign for the proposed end of the fossil fuel era. For others, they do not go far enough regarding the continuing rise in global CO₂ emissions and average temperatures, which make it increasingly likely that the 1.5 °C threshold target established in the Paris Agreement will not be met. Germany and Japan want to be forerunners for energy transition and urgently needed resources savings by implementing ambitious projects that significantly increase the share of renewable energies and energy efficiency as contribution to the COP 28 goals. The guiding principle in both countries is that this pioneering role not only serves climate protection, but also promotes a green, competitive economy in a more sustainable world.

Japan wants to become carbon neutral by 2050. According to its Prime Minister, the country needs to invest more than 150 trillion yen, approximately one trillion US dollars, over the next 10 years to achieve this. "With the GX Promotion Act, many initiatives are being launched, to simultaneously realize carbon neutrality commitments, as well as to strengthen industrial competitiveness and economic growth," says Prof. Tatsuya Terazawa, Japanese Co-Chair of the GJETC, outlining the plan. "Even as we strive for carbon neutrality, we must also take multifaceted and comprehensive measures that not only ensure a stable energy supply, but also pay attention to strengthening industry and improving people's quality of life."

The German government's theme for its appearance in Dubai was "Ambitious. Just. Together." and the country acted as intermediary at the event. "We need to do our homework on energy efficiency and the ongoing restructuring of our energy mix. But we also want to help countries that are already affected from global warming and will be even more challenged in the future," said Dr Stefan Thomas, Co-Chair of the GJETC on the German side, emphasizing an important aspect of global action. "Our Council meeting provided an initial opportunity for the experts to discuss what contributions both countries can make at home, but also through Just Energy Transition Partnerships as one example with



developing and newly industrialized countries to achieve the COP 28 goals. This topic will continue to occupy us in the coming months."

On day two of the GJETC council meeting held on February 14 and 15 at the Embassy of Japan in the heart of Berlin, the concept discussions were an important part of the agenda. These talks will determine the priorities which the energy experts of the council are tackling in their upcoming work.

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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