

Press release

CO₂-Price and renewable energy in focus – Expert Council GJETC is moving into the next phase

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The German-Japanese Energy Transition Council (GJETC) is entering its 5th phase with a view to the prerequisites for a successful energy and climate transformation. The focus will be on expert dialogues and background analyses that firstly address questions regarding the public acceptance of carbon pricing and secondly shed light on the availability of critical minerals for renewable energy technologies.

At COP-28 in Dubai, three energy transition targets were agreed, including a tripling of electricity generation from renewable energies by 2030. COP-29 in Baku brought a new target for financing climate protection, and the rules for international carbon markets were also finalised. However, questions remain as to how these targets are to be implemented. One important economic instrument is carbon pricing.

The GJETC has been working on topics relating to the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the economy for eight years now. In its next phase, it plans to conduct research to help answer these questions. Based on the current status and foreseeable developments on CO₂ pricing (emissions trading, including the EU's new Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, and CO₂ taxes, but also energy taxes and subsidies) in Germany and Japan, challenges for acceptance will be analysed, e.g. with regard to the competitiveness of industry and the social impact. The use of revenues is also important here. As a second topic, the foreseeable demand for critical minerals for the expansion of renewable energies and in particular battery storage and the supply chains and availability in connection with each other will be presented. The GJETC is also planning a dialogue with key stakeholders to discuss these topics.

The GJETC has the clear objective of not allowing the energy and climate transformation to take a back seat despite the current multiple crises, political uncertainty and international tensions.

‘It is important to use smart policy-making to emphasise the benefits of the transformation for all citizens and businesses and to make supply chains resilient for the expansion of renewable energy,’ explains Tatsuya Terazawa, President of the IEEJ and Japanese Co-Chair of the GJETC. ‘It is important to reuse the revenues from carbon pricing for investments, but also to cooperate internationally to diversify supply chains,’ adds Stefan Thomas, Head of the Energy, Transport and Climate Policy Department at the Wuppertal Institute and German Co-Chair of the GJETC.



About the GJETC

The German-Japanese Energy Transition 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 a comprehensive 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 as well as 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 GJETC, the former Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) took over support for the GJETC from the DBU. In the 4th working phase and the current 5th working phase, the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) is supporting the activities.

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

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

Press contact Germany:

Noah Brelage
ECOS Consult GmbH
Westerbreite 7
49084 Osnabrück

Telephone: +49 541 911 909 90
E-mail: gjetc@ecos.eu

Press contact Japan:

Management Planning and Public Relations
Group
The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan
Inui Bldg. Kachidoki 10th Floor, 13-1, Kachidoki
1-chome, Chuo-ku,
Tokyo 104-0054
Telephone: +81-3-5547-0211
Fax: +81-3-5547-0223
E-mail: contact-ieej@tky.ieej.or.jp