

Press Release

German and Japanese Perspectives on Energy and Climate Policy

Berlin/Tokyo, 19/20 February 2026: In the light of geopolitical changes, the German-Japanese Energy Transition Council (GJETC) is holding its 19th council meeting in Berlin and celebrating the 10th anniversary of its foundation. Potential implications of the new governments in Germany and Japan and the influence of the new Trump administration on energy and climate policy will be discussed, while a special focus is set on policies for energy efficiency in the industry.

With the second Trump administration, the focus of world politics has shifted significantly: In addition to the ongoing uncertainty of the U.S. tariff policies that put economies worldwide under pressure, the rollback towards fossil fuels threatens climate mitigation policies and accelerates loss and damages. Aggressive moves against the rule-based international order force the EU Member States to increase their military strength – at the expense of economic and social prosperity and ambitious climate mitigation policies.

Security has also become a noteworthy priority under Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. With regard to Japan's goal to become carbon-neutral in 2050, Japan's new energy policy wants to strengthen the role of nuclear power as well as fostering the installation of renewable power. Following the election in February 2025, Germany's energy policy is also putting stronger focus on economic efficiency, competitiveness, and energy security. To increase the chances to meet the carbon-neutrality goals to be met in 2045 (Germany) or 2050 (Japan), energy efficiency needs to be strongly harnessed as one important pillar to also deal with the challenge of dwindling resources/lacking access to critical raw materials.

“The updated NDCs submitted by the [UNFCCC] members countries reveal a significant gap between the ambition to achieve the 1,5°C target and the reality. It is therefore crucial to assess the current status in Germany and Japan, discuss how both countries can achieve their own targets and explore how the two countries can contribute to global carbon neutrality”, says Japanese GJETC Co-Chair Tatsuya Terazawa, CEO and Chairman of the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ).

The German Co-Chair of the GJETC, Stefan Thomas, adds: “Over the last 10 years since its inauguration, the GJETC has established itself as a role model of science-based, independent bilateral policy advice and mutual learning. It is a platform for open and in-depth dialogue on urgent and critical issues of the energy transition. Continuation of this collaborative effort is more important than ever, to strengthen the cooperation of Japan and Germany among the middle powers, e.g. on critical raw materials.”

With a view on the political strategies of the new governments in Germany and Japan, and the current geopolitical challenges, the German and Japanese experts of GJETC will reflect and discuss current



energy & climate policy developments in both countries internally and with related stakeholders and interested public.

On the occasion of the Council meeting, the GJETC is organizing a stakeholder dialogue on energy efficiency policy for industry in cooperation with the Japanese-German Energy Partnership Team. Based on an input paper and the discussion results, the Council members will develop specific policy recommendations, which will be published later.

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. Founded in 2016, the Council has conducted a comprehensive study programme on key topics of the energy transition, holds stakeholder dialogues with industry and civil society.

The Council is supported on the Japanese side by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) on the German side. 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.

Recent study topics included the public acceptance of carbon pricing, the availability of critical minerals for renewable energy technologies, and the governance of energy efficiency, especially for industry. Information on Council Members, Studies and Papers: www.gjetc.org

Press contact Germany:

Johanna Schilling
ECOS Consult GmbH
Westerbreite 7
49084 Osnabrück

Phone: +49 541 911 909 90

e-mail: gjetc@ecos.eu

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