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## INVITATION

The German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), DGAP Regional Forum Frankfurt, and the Consulate General of Japan in Frankfurt invite you to an online discussion:

### Japan and Germany: Guardians of Multilateralism

**Wednesday, March 24, 8:15–9:30 AM (CET) // 4:15–5:30 PM (JST)**

via Zoom

Japan and Germany share many characteristics and have enjoyed a remarkably strong friendship throughout their respective histories. As important contributors to the international community in organizations such as the United Nations, Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO, and WHO, both countries rely on a rules-based multilateral order – not only to support their export-oriented economies, but also to transmit their foreign and security policy agendas. The panel will discuss how to strengthen multilateralism in an international environment that is characterized by growing instability, systemic competition, and national rivalries. How can Japan and Germany improve efficiency in international decision-making? What have the benefits of their partnership been so far and how can cooperation be reinforced to make the most out of it in the future?

Opening Remarks:

**Setsuko Kawahara**

Consul General of Japan in Frankfurt

Introduction:

**Christoph Kehr-von Plettenberg**

Chairman, DGAP's Regionalforum Frankfurt

Speakers:

**Sebastian Groth**

Director for Policy Planning, German Federal Foreign Office

**Didi Kirsten Tatlow**

Senior Fellow, DGAP's Asia Program

**Prof. Shujiro Urata**

Professor Emeritus, Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies

Chair:

**Andreas Schwarzkopf**

Head of Opinion Section, *Frankfurter Rundschau*

Please register [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event via Zoom.

Participants will be able to ask questions via Zoom's question and answer function during the discussion. You will find information related to data processing associated with the use of the Zoom platform at <https://dgap.org/de/zoom>. Please note that this event will be recorded.

Sincerely yours,  
Setsuko Kawahara  
Consul General of Japan in Frankfurt

Christoph Kehr-von Plettenberg  
Chairman, DGAP's Regionalforum Frankfurt

## **Japan and Germany - Guardians of Multilateralism**

### **Speaker's Bios**

**Sebastian Groth** was appointed Director for Policy Planning at the German Federal Foreign Office in April 2019. His previous assignments were as Deputy Director for Policy Planning (September 2016 – March 2019), and Head of the State Secretaries' Office (2014 – 2016). From 2010 – 2014, he worked as Adviser for Foreign Policy and French-German relations in the Cabinet of the French Prime Ministers François Fillon, Jean-Marc Ayrault and Manuel Valls. From 2004 – 2010 he was member of the Policy Planning Staff, working on energy and climate policy and on global economic affairs. In 2001, he started his diplomatic career as First Secretary at the German Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, working on Somalia, South Sudan and Burundi and as Press and Cultural Attaché. Sebastian Groth studied economics and sociology in Cologne and in Montpellier/ France.

**Didi Kirsten Tatlow** is senior fellow at the Asia Program at the German Council of Foreign Relations (DGAP) in Berlin, Germany, and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at Projekt Sinopsis in Prague, Czechia. She researches, speaks and publishes widely on the political system of China, its impact on Europe, technology and worldwide transfer, democratic security, ideology, disinformation, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Indo-Pacific. In 2019, she began a series, "China-in-Germany," examining the influence and interference activities of the Communist Party of China in Germany. She has co-edited and co-authored a book, "China's Quest for Foreign Technology: Beyond Espionage" (2021). Tatlow worked as a reporter and columnist in Asia and Europe for 23 years including at the South China Morning Post, her hometown newspaper, and the New York Times from 2010 to 2017. She recently published a cover story for Newsweek magazine on the nature, tactics and scale of CCP influencing in the United States. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Tatlow holds a bachelor's degree in Chinese and politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

**Shujiro Urata** is Professor Emeritus, Waseda University. He was Professor of International Economics, Graduate School Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University. Professor Urata received his BA in Economics from Keio University, MA and Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University. He is a former Research Associate at the Brookings Institution, an Economist at the World Bank. He specializes in international economics and has published a number of books and articles on international economic issues. His recent co-edited books include East Asian Integration: Goods, Services, and Investment, Routledge, 2019.