



## DIE UNI TÜBINGEN: INNOVATIV. INTERDISZIPLINÄR. INTERNATIONAL.

Innovativ. Interdisziplinär. International. – Mit diesen drei Worten lässt sich zusammenfassen, was die Universität Tübingen zu einer Spitzenuniversität macht. Denn wir sehen uns in der Verantwortung, durch exzellente Forschung und Lehre Lösungen für die Herausforderungen der Zukunft in einer globalisierten Gesellschaft zu finden. Mit rund 200 Studiengängen bietet die Universität Tübingen ein breites Fächerspektrum an.

### German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visits Tübingen’s partner university in Kyoto

During his state visit to Japan, where he met with Emperor Naruhito and Prime Minister Kishida, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier also traveled to Kyoto on November 3, 2022.

He attended a panel discussion on “25 Years after the Kyoto Protocol: Progress and Challenges” organized by the Director of Tübingen University’s Center for Japanese Studies (TCJS) in Kyoto, Dr. Michael Wachutka, in close cooperation with the German Embassy in Tokyo and the Consulate General in Osaka at our partner university Doshisha.

Japanese and German experts from science, industry and civil society discussed the global challenges of man-made climate change and answered questions from the student audience.

President Steinmeier commenced the event with a keynote speech, in which he called for more decisive action on climate protection. He called to mind the greenhouse gas reduction protocol signed in Kyoto a quarter of a century ago and warned that current conflicts must not supersede climate protection, emphasizing that only by means of dialogue and international cooperation can the fight against the global climate crisis be advanced.



*German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife Elke Büdenbender, in conversation with Dr. Michael Wachutka (Director of Tübingen University’s Center for Japanese Studies) and Prof. Tomoko Ueki (Rector of Doshisha University), upon their arrival in Kyoto [© German Consulate General, Osaka]*



Another focus of his speech was the importance of German-Japanese relations and the close cooperation between both countries. In his address, the President emphasized Doshisha University's strong focus on internationality and paid particular tribute to its "close relations with our University of Excellence in Tübingen, which 30 years ago opened its Center for Japanese Studies here, as the very first branch of a European university." Therefore, he said, he is "very pleased that German students are amongst us in this room today, who are spending a year of their Japanese studies at Doshisha."

This panel discussion was the only time during his stay in Japan that President Steinmeier gave a longer speech of his own, so the event, which was co-organized by the Tübingen University's Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, can rightly be considered a highlight of his state visit to Japan.



Official welcome photo, left to right: Michael Wachutka (Director of TCJS), Frank-Walter Steinmeier (President of Germany), Elke Büdenbender, Tomoko Ueki (Rector of Doshisha University) [© H. Usami]



Backdrop of the panel discussion co-organized by TCJS [Created by Michael Wachutka]