

“Powering smart manufacturing”

Joint Symposium held by the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo and TU9 – German Institutes of Technology. Leading German Universities of Technology present recent advances in Industry 4.0.

Berlin, November 1, 2016 – On October 26, leading scientists from the TU9 Universities presented their latest findings together with tried and tested practices used in implementing their visions for Industry 4.0. Held in Tokyo, the event was jointly hosted by the German Centre for Research and Innovation in Tokyo (DWIH) and TU9, and with support from the Industrial Value Chain Initiative and the German Embassy in Tokyo.

Some 200 representatives from academia, business and policymaking attended to share their experience and discuss topics such as smart products, digital infrastructure, integrated processing systems and human-robot interaction.

In his opening speech, Professor Horst Hippler, President of the German Rectors’ Conference and DIWH representative, said: “Cooperation between Germany and Japan on Industry 4.0 is highly promising. Although they have taken different approaches in implementing their visions of smart manufacturing, those approaches are by no means mutually exclusive. Because of the different angles taken, points of intersection have emerged to provide synergies and opportunities to learn from one another.”

“Industry 4.0 stands for the integration of information and communication technologies with manufacturing systems, and for global connections and exchange,” added TU9 President Professor Hans Jürgen Prömel in his subsequent speech. “As children of the Industrial Revolution, Universities of Technology – due to their interdisciplinary structure and close cooperation with industry – have from the outset been drivers of innovation and of academic involvement in industrial and societal processes of change.”

The ways in which Germany and Japan can complement each other in the field of smart manufacturing became clear at an Industry 4.0 workshop held the following day at the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Japan (AHK Japan). During the workshop, Professor Jürgen Fleischer from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology worked with CEOs of Japanese SMEs and high-ranking representatives from Japanese business on approaches for implementing Industry 4.0 that are specially tailored to specific companies’ needs.

Further opportunities for exchange on science policy in Germany and Japan presented themselves at a reception held at the German Ambassador’s residence on the evening of October 26, and also at a meeting on October 27 between the President of the TU9 Universities and the President of the German Rectors’ Conference with leading representatives of the Japan Association of National Universities (JANU).

About DIWH Tokyo

The German Centre for Research and Innovation in Tokyo (DWIH Tokyo) is a forum for German universities, non-university research institutions and research-based companies in Japan. Its aim is to showcase German research institutes and innovative companies using a single format, and to

intensify cooperation with Japanese partners. DWIH Tokyo is jointly supported by the German Rectors' Conference and the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Japan, and funded by the German Foreign Office.

About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, Technische Universität Dresden, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany's position as a location of science and innovation.

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TU9 was founded in 2006 and celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016.