

**Migration and Demographic Challenges:  
New Policy Approaches in Japan and Germany**

**22 February 2017, 13:00-17:30**

**International House of Japan / Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall**

**Simultaneous interpretation (Japanese/German)**

<http://www.i-house.or.jp/eng/access.html>

Organized by

Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Supported by

Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin (JDZB)

Japan and Germany face tremendous common challenges stemming from an aging society. As of today, Japan's ageing ratio has hit 27%, the highest in the world; Germany's ageing ratio sits at 21%, the third highest. To cope with serious demographic and labor problems, Germany has been proactively accepting immigrants into its labor force, whereas Japan has not eased its immigration policies for the time being. However, the Japanese government is currently aiming to enact the world's fastest permanent visa process for highly skilled workers, and is expected to discuss more proactive policies that will address Japan's aggravating depopulation and insufficient labor force.

Under a worldwide trend of growing anti-globalism and anti-refugee movements, both Japan and Germany need objective, fact-based approaches to issues surrounding immigration. By sharing the experiences in this field, Japanese and German experts and politicians will learn from each other and formulate forward-looking migration policies that can contribute to a dynamic and sustainable future.

## **Program**

**13:00-13:05**

### **Opening remarks**

Akio Okawara, President and Chief Executive Officer, JCIE

**13:05-14:05**

### **Keynote Speeches**

Acceptance of Immigrants and Refugees in Germany: Challenges and Opportunities

Rolf Mützenich, Member of the German Bundestag

Acceptance of Foreigners in Japan: Challenges and Prospects

Tarō Kōno, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

Japan's Future and Migration

Masaharu Nakagawa, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

**14:15-15:35**

### **Panel Discussion “Migration Policy in Japan and Germany – political and economic perspectives”**

Chair: Tomoyuki Isoyama, former Journalist of Nikkei Newspaper

Participants:

- Rolf Mützenich
- Katrin Hirsland, Deputy Head, Directorate-general Policy Planning and General Issues, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- Tarō Kōno
- Masaharu Nakagawa
- Tetsuya Jitsu (Editorial vice-chairman, Nikkei Newspaper)

**15:50-17:30**

### **Panel Discussion “Social integration of immigrants – views from the basis”**

Chair: Michèle Auga, Head, Division of International Dialogue, Department for Western Europe and North America

Participants:

- Dr. Stephan Sievert, Berlin-Institut for Population and Development
- Markus Wimmer, Director of the Office for Social Services, City of Straubing, Germany
- Toshihiro Menju, Managing Director and Chief Program Officer, JCIE
- Kei Shiho (Associate Professor, Kansai Gakuin University)