



Botschaft  
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Tokyo



## **MEDIA FREEDOM, POPULISM AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE**

### **Panel Discussion**

**2 December 2020**

**18.30-20.15 (registration open at 18.00)**

**Tokyo, Japan**

The digital society offers new opportunities for democratic participation – but also countless possibilities for the dissemination of manipulative content. Populists, opponents of democracy and other actors with strategic interests can easily use the access to online communities to spread propaganda, hate speech and fake news.

How resilient are open and democratic societies – such as Japan and Germany – to these influences? How can they address the problem of interference in their political debate without unnecessarily restricting the freedom of the public debate itself? And what is the role of the media and professional journalists in that context? Can free and independent media contribute to making democracy more resilient?

To discuss these topics, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), the German Embassy in Tokyo and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens (OAG) will host a panel discussion with academics, journalists and experts from Japan and Germany.

#### **Venue:**

Hall of the OAG-Haus/German Cultural Center Tokyo

OAG-Haus, Akasaka 7-5-56, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Online Streaming (details will be announced on the websites of the organizing institutions)

#### **Language:**

English with simultaneous translation in Japanese

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, prior registration is required at [office@fes-japan.org](mailto:office@fes-japan.org). The venue will be filled to less than 50% capacity, ensuring social distancing. Participants are expected to wear a mask during the event and are asked to have temperature taken before entering the conference venue.*

## **Program Schedule**

- 18:00          Registration Open
- 18:30          **Welcome Remarks**  
Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Japan
- 18:40          **Panel Discussion**
- Kaori Hayashi, Professor of Media and Journalism Studies at the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, The University of Tokyo
- Koichi Nakano, Professor of Political Science and Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophia University, Tokyo
- Yasuomi Sawa, Journalist, Japanese News Agency Kyodo News, Professor, Journalism Studies, Senshu University, Tokyo
- Kathrin Erdmann, Foreign Correspondent to Japan, ARD German Public Broadcasters, Tokyo
- Ulrike Klinger, Professor for Political Theory and Digital Democracy, European New School of Digital Studies (ENS), Frankfurt (Oder) and Slubice.
- Moderator:* Jochen Neumeyer, First Secretary at the Political Section of the German Embassy in Tokyo
- 20:10          **Closing Remarks**  
Sven Saaler, Professor of Modern Japanese History and Director, Graduate Program in Global Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
- 20:15          **End of the Event**
- 20:20          Reception (Foyer of the German Cultural Center)