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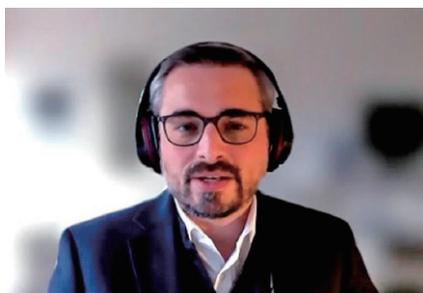
**INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL NEWS**

**International Medical Society of Japan**

**Since 1925**



第61回国際治療談話会総会  
ウィズコロナの医療体制



**No. 509**

**2022. January**



# The 61st International Congress on Therapy

## Medical systems with COVID-19

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Congratulatory remarks : **Dr. Clemens von Goetze** (Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Tokyo)

**Toshio Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D.** (President, Japan Medical Association)

Medical Lectures Chair : **Koichi Ito, MD, PhD** (Managing director, IMSJ)

**Taro Kondo, MD, PhD** (Managing director, IMSJ)

### Lecture I: Challenge to Covid-19 vaccine

**Akihisa Harada MD, Ph.D**

(President & Representative Director, Pfizer Japan Inc.)

### Lecture II: COVID19, a disease that took the World by the cytokine storm

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#### Does the Japanese Constitution need change?

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School of Law, Meiji University / Director, MICL)

Closing remarks : **Kenichi Ishibashi, MD, PhD** (Chairman, Board of Directors, IMSJ)



# INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL NEWS

## International Medical Society of Japan

### Since 1925

January 31, 2022



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## Opening Remarks

Koichi Ito MD, PhD  
Managing director, IMSJ

Japan in the last weeks and I hope this success can be sustained. But it is of utmost importance to exchange the views of the experts from both sides, to learn from each other and combine forces to fight this difficult disease and this pandemic.

## Congratulatory message

Dr. Clemens von Goetze  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Tokyo

I know that the society is extremely active in combining the knowledge of international scientists and physicians in this field and I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations.

It is a great honor to speak here to the International Medical Society of Japan and I congratulate you on holding this year's conference. These conferences have a long tradition and since many years they connect closely the medical worlds of Japan and Germany.

I know that you are covering a broad spectrum of different fields of medicine since decades, and this year you have chosen a very pressing subject, obviously the pandemic and ways to fight it. We recognize with pleasure that the number of Covid-19 cases have been going down tremendously in

## Congratulatory message

Toshio Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D.  
President  
Japan Medical Association

On behalf of the Japan Medical Association, JMA, I would like to express my congratulations on the opening of the 61st International Congress of Therapy.

Almost two years have passed since the COVID-19 began to rage across the world, yet the situation is still unpredictable. As of the end of September, the State of Emergency and the Priority Preventative Measures were both completely lifted. The number

of new confirmed cases in Japan has decreased from the peak of 25,992 on August 20th to 84 on November 1st in Japan, and from the peak of 5,908 on August 13th to 9 on November 1st in Tokyo. However, in light of overseas cases where the infection re-expanded after easing the behavioral restrictions, we must continue to be relentless in response to the COVID-19.

We need to build the cross-border cooperation in countermeasures against the COVID-19. As part of that, the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO), JMA is a member of, held its General Assembly Taipei as an online meeting in September. The "Taipei Statement on Collaborative Work for Managing Novel Pathogen Pandemic" was adopted there. Moreover, the World Medical Association (WMA), JMA is a member of, held its General Assembly London as an online meeting in October. There, the "WMA Resolution on COVID-19 Vaccines and International Travel Requirements" was adopted.

In addition to the activities in CMAAO and WMA, JMA shares information obtained through exchanges in the fields of global health, such as national medical associations, the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and the Japan External Trade Organization, JETRO, New York. JMA will continue to respond to the COVID-19 infection in cooperation with medical associations, physicians, and other healthcare professionals around the world.

It will be a long battle, but the COVID-19 will eventually come to an end. Thus, we should ensure that countries across the world will continue working together and stay committed to the infection control, so that the entire world wins against the COVID-19.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere wishes for the success of this congress, the continued growth of the International Medical Society of Japan, and the good health of all attendees.

## Grußbotschaft

Jürgen Kessing  
Oberbürgermeister der Stadt  
Bietigheim-Bissingen



Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

dem 61. Internationalen Therapiekongress der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans sende ich im Namen der Stadt Bietigheim-Bissingen, ihrer Bürgerschaft wie auch persönlich die besten Grüße. Es ist mir eine besondere Ehre, Ihnen auch in diesem Jahr ein Grußwort zukommen zu lassen.

Letztes Jahr stand Ihr Kongress unter dem Motto „Coronavirus - Infektionskrankheit: Japan und deutsche Maßnahmen im Vergleich“. Dieses Jahr haben Sie das Thema „Medizinische Systeme nach COVID-19“ ausgewählt. In diesem Jahr wird der Kongress auch erstmals eine reine Onlineveranstaltung sein.

Die Themen, die Sie in diesem und im letzten Jahr gewählt haben, sind angesichts der weltweiten Pandemie besonders relevant und die Vorträge werden mit Sicherheit einen wichtigen Beitrag für die künftige Pandemiebekämpfung leisten. Die Themen zeigen auch, wie sehr sich unser Leben durch diese weltweite Pandemie verändert hat. Sie werden uns auch in den nächsten Jahren beschäftigen. Die Internationale Medizinische Gesellschaft ist gerade in diesen Zeiten unersetzlich und spielt eine wichtige gesellschaftliche Rolle.

Erwin von Bälz wirkte Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts über 26 Jahre an der Universität von Tokio und lehrte nicht nur, sondern lernte auch selbst viel dazu. Er behandelte Kranke, erforschte die Kultur und die alten japanischen Heilmethoden und machte unter anderem auf die Heilkraft der heißen Quellen in Kusatsu aufmerksam. Er förderte den Austausch von Wissen, von Erfahrungen und Kenntnissen, um für alle Völker in der Welt und die Wissenschaften einen Mehrwert zu erzielen. In diesem Sinne entwickelte sich die Medizin in Japan bis

heute zu einer fortschrittlichen, gerade in der Forschung starken Wissenschaft.

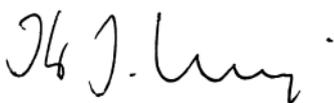
Die Internationale Medizinische Gesellschaft Japans hat diesen Anspruch Erwin von Bälz' auf Begegnung, Austausch und freundschaftliche Beziehungen vor über 60 Jahren aufgegriffen und ihm durch die Kontaktaufnahme zu Bietigheim-Bissingen, dem Geburtsort Erwin von Bälz', eine neue Richtung gegeben. In der Tradition Erwin von Bälz' nutzen wir heute die Chancen zum gegenseitigen Kennenlernen, zum Austausch von Ideen und Kultur und stärken damit die weltweite Völkerverständigung und den Frieden. Das Vermächtnis Erwin von Bälz' ist bis heute lebendig und wir wollen es auch in Zukunft weiter pflegen.

Vor allem der Jugend widmen wir unsere Städtepartnerschaft mit Kusatsu, die die Freundschaft fortsetzt. Nächstes Jahr werden wir mit Kusatsu unser 60-jähriges Partnerschaftsjubiläum begehen, das unsere Verbundenheit über Grenzen hinweg festigt.

Die Internationale Medizinische Gesellschaft Japans bildet auch heute noch ein wichtiges Bindeglied für den wissenschaftlichen, insbesondere medizinischen Austausch zwischen Japan, Deutschland und vielen anderen Ländern dieser Erde. Hier danken wir der internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans und wünschen den diesjährigen Beratungen des Internationalen Therapiekongresses einen guten Verlauf.

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans weiterhin erfolgreiches Wirken und ein gutes Gelingen anlässlich ihres diesjährigen Kongresses. Die Stadt Bietigheim-Bissingen wird ihren Freunden in Japan stets eng verbunden bleiben.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,



Jürgen Kessing  
Oberbürgermeister

## Grußbotschaft

Markus Baier  
Bürgermeister der Alten  
Hansestadt Lemgo



Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Kenichi Ishibashi, sehr geehrte Damen und Herren der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans,

im Namen von Rat und Verwaltung der Alten Hansestadt Lemgo grüße ich Sie zu Ihrem 61. Internationalen Therapiekongress. Auf diesem Wege wünsche ich dem ersten Online-Kongress „Medical systems after COVID 19“ einen guten und erfolgreichen Verlauf.

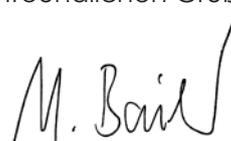
Die Pandemie dauert jetzt schon 1 1/2 Jahre an und es ist noch immer kein Ende absehbar. Diese Pandemie

bedeutet für die Menschen eine große Herausforderung, da immer neue Situationslagen eine gewisse Flexibilität erfordern, auch für die Medizin. In der Forschung sowie auch die Wissenschaft müssen neue Erkenntnisse gewonnen und ausgewertet werden. Die Weitergabe und das austauschen dieser Daten ist von enormer Wichtigkeit für die ganze Menschheit.

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Ishibashi, über ein persönliches Kennenlernen in der Geburtsstadt von Engelbert Kaempfer würde ich mich auch sehr freuen. Es wäre uns eine große Freude, Sie und eine Delegation der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans in naher Zukunft in der Alten Hansestadt Lemgo begrüßen zu dürfen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Ihr



Markus Baier  
Bürgermeister der Alten Hansestadt Lemgo

## Grußbotschaft

Dr. Frank Mentrup  
Oberbürgermeister der Stadt  
Karlsruhe



### Grußbotschaft von Oberbürgermeister Dr. Frank Mentrup für den 61. Internationalen Therapiekongress der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans

Der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans übermittle ich zu ihrem 61. Internationalen Therapiekongress im Namen der Stadt Karlsruhe, ihres Gemeinderats und ihrer Bürgerinnen und Bürger und auch ganz persönlich die besten Wünsche. Zum ersten Mal wird in diesem Jahr der Kongress als reine Onlineveranstaltung mit Web-Vorträgen aus Japan und Deutschland stattfinden, bedingt durch die Corona-Pandemie. Nicht von ungefähr ist das Thema des Therapiekongresses in diesem Jahr „Medizinische Systeme nach COVID-19“.

Die intensiven Verbindungen mit der Stadt Karlsruhe freuen mich ebenso wie die engen Bande, die es zwischen der deutschen und der japanischen Medizin seit langem gibt. Dafür stehen namhafte Ärzte wie Dr. Erwin von Bälz und Dr. Engelbert Kämpfer. Der ehemalige Präsident der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans, Professor Dr. Choei Ishibashi, hat sich, ebenso wie später sein Sohn Chosei und heute sein Enkel Dr. Kenichi Ishibashi, stets aktiv für die guten Beziehungen zwischen den Medizinerinnen und Medizinern Japans und denen der Fächerstadt eingesetzt. Ich wünsche mir daher sehr, dass diese Tradition mit dem Therapiekongress 2022 in Karlsruhe wieder fortgesetzt werden kann.

Denn hier bei uns in Karlsruhe sind japanische Lebensart und Kultur in vielfacher Weise präsent. Dies ist vor allem das Verdienst der sehr engagierten Deutsch-Japanischen Gesellschaft in der Fächerstadt, die sich mit großem Erfolg für Verständnis und Freundschaft zwischen Deutschland und Japan sowie für die Förderung kultureller und wissenschaftlicher Beziehungen einsetzt. Seit 1994 ist die Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft Patin des Japangartens im Karlsruher Zoologischen Stadtgarten, dessen Geschichte auf das Jahr 1914 zurückgeht, als ein Karlsruher Arzt eine Steinleuchte und verschiedene Samen aus Japan mitgebracht hatte. Mit seiner Pagode, seinem Steinlöwen, dem Shinto-Schrein und vor allem dem im Jahr 2018 neu erbauten Teehaus verströmt der Garten das Flair des - für uns - Exotischen. Der Gang durch das rote „Torii“ führt mit einem Schritt in eine andere Welt. Gleichzeitig ist der Japanische Garten für die Karlsruherinnen und Karlsruher – fast wie selbstverständlich – ein Stück Ur-Karlsruhe. Dieser unaufgelegte Umgang mit dem Anderen, diese harmonische Integration des vermeintlich Fremden spiegeln die weltoffene Atmosphäre wider und die Neugier auf Neues, die unsere Stadt seit jeher auszeichnet.

Ich wünsche der Internationalen Medizinischen Gesellschaft Japans für die Zukunft viel Erfolg und dem 61. Internationalen Therapiekongress auch im neuen Format einen erfolgreichen Verlauf und gute Ergebnisse.

Dr. Frank Mentrup  
Oberbürgermeister

## Congratulatory Telegram

Kenro Hori MD  
President, Japan Dentist Association

Please accept our sincere congratulations on the success of the 61st International Congress on Therapy.

We truly wish further development of your Society and the health of your members.

Nobuo Yamamoto MD  
President, Japan Pharmaceutical Association

I'm delighted that the 61st International Congress on Therapy is such a grand event.

Through events and lectures such as these, your association contributes to both the improvement of health care in Japan and the development of international medical exchange as well. I truly respect everything you do.

I hope your association will continue to prosper and grow.

## Introductory Message from the Chair

Taro Kondo MD, PhD  
Managing director, IMSJ

Since the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, people's lives have changed all over the world.

People have to live their lives while feeling surrounded by life-threatening infectious diseases every day. The vaccine that was developed has been widely inoculated and Japan has overcome the fifth wave.

There are a wide variety of issues such as diagnosis and treatment, the medical system, after effects, virus mutations, and social life.

At today's Congress, we invited four speakers from Japan and Germany. I'm sure that we can share and renew our knowledge by listening to their presentations.

## Lectures on Medicine

### Lecture I

#### Challenge to Covid-19 vaccine

Akihisa Harada MD, Ph.D  
President & Representative Director  
Pfizer Japan Inc.

From the beginning of 2020, the pandemic that involved the world at risk, the number of infected people increased day by day, and it became severe and the socio-economic activity fell into a state of being unable to remain. In January 2020, the entire gene sequence was released from China as "SARS-CoV2", and WHO named this viral infection "COVID-19". After that, research institutes and pharmaceutical companies around the world began research and development of vaccines and therapeutic agents to challenge this pandemic. In order to challenge this pandemic as an industry, pharmaceutical companies actively exchanged information with other companies regarding COVID-19, even among competing companies in normal times. In addition, since venture companies are actively investing research resources in this area, large companies are promoting the provision of development know-how to such venture companies, and the surplus of the production capacity of large companies was provided to those small companies' antiviral drugs and vaccines asset production. In 2020, it was seen among US R & D-type companies that the industry was united to take on the challenge of this pandemic, which is not normally seen, in order to counter the pandemic that threatens society. I think we also have a lot to learn. We have more than 200 such projects with other companies and other ventures. After that, a vaccine with a new mechanism was developed within a year, and it is becoming a step to regain the "normal life" of society. This success allowed the vaccine to be launched in this short period of time, starting all the normally sequential processes at the same time, without omitting the entire development

process. However, it was not only the efforts of one company that succeeded in the phase III clinical trials at 150 medical institutions around the world in this short period of time, but also the power of many people who believed that they would overcome this pandemic. This vaccine development inspired by challenge against COVID-19 encouraged the cohesiveness of the industry that supported it, and volunteers who participated in clinical trials, medical professionals, and regulatory agencies. The courage of many people contributed to bring Science to real-world application in medical setting. In this talk, I would like to introduce the background of vaccine development and our challenges to the pandemic.

## Lecture II

### COVID19, a disease that took the World by the cytokine storm

Beate Heissig, MD PhD  
Specially Appointed Associate Professor  
Department of Research Support Utilizing  
Bioresource Bank  
Graduate School of Medicine, Juntendo University

Storms increase in a world struggling with climate change. Preparedness is protection.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-Co-2) in the most severe cases presents with clinical symptoms of acute respiratory distress syndrome and hyper-inflammation with features of cytokine storm syndrome. Our group studies the role of coagulation- and fibrinolysis-associated factors in the regulation of the cytokine storm in severe cases of inflammation. It will be important to understand the role of those factors in the patho-mechanism of COVID-19 giving a window for treatments.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken the world by storm. Governments quickly reacted to contain the spread of the virus ranging from lockdowns, over school closures, to basic hygiene standard

reassurances like wearing a mask given the airborne transmission of the virus.

Vulnerabilities in health systems, local or central governments, and global science collaborations have emerged during the pandemic.

How prepared was the scientific community for this pandemic? Here, a definition of scientific preparedness (adapted from the frameworks of the Assistant secretary for preparedness and response within the United States Department of Health & Human Services): Science preparedness is a *collaborative* effort to establish and sustain a scientific research framework that can enable emergency planners, responders, and the community to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from major public health emergencies or disasters.

The basis are *collaborations* between government agencies, the private sector, academic institutions, and community organizations on a national and *international* scale.

A sound research infrastructure to tackle a disaster like the COVID-19 pandemic includes:

- Rapid Institutional Review Board
- Pre-identified Scientific Research Networks
- Reliable and Accessible Data and Material Sources for Preclinical and Clinical Studies
- Static and Dynamic Funding Streams between countries

To achieve this level of scientific preparedness on an international scale, strong ties between countries should be established.

Germany and Japan have a long history of collaborations and scientific exchange dating back to the late 19th century. Germany welcomed many young Japanese physicians to study with world-leaders in medicine like the pathologist Rudolf Virchow (1821–1902), or the bacteriologist Robert Koch (1843–1910). A famous example was Dr. Shibasaburo Kitasato, a scholar of Robert Koch, the founder of the Institute of Infectious Diseases, later renamed The Institute of Medical Science, The University of Tokyo. Today, Germany and Japan have one of the best health systems in the world, and given similar scientific standards, scientists and

physicians from Germany and Japan are a perfect match to set up a sound international research infrastructure. Following are thoughts and experiences on research preparedness during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Rapid Institutional Review Board.**

The usually time-consuming process of approving a preclinical or clinical studies if it is national or international should be could help to react faster to new disasters.

- **Pre-identified Scientific Research Networks**

According to Maher et al. (Nature, June 16, 2021), international collaborations on COVID-19 only rose within the first few months of the pandemic compared to non-COVID-19 research. Of interest, one-third of those collaborating internationally during the pandemic were born in another country and just reconnected with colleagues. Another third were collaborating with someone who had worked in one capacity or another in the United States.

These study results show that international collaborations are borne out of the experience of having worked in a different country beforehand. It is therefore vital to reinstate medical scholarly exchange between Japan and Germany to generate a viable network necessary for scientific preparedness.

- **Reliable and Accessible Data and Material Sources for Preclinical and Clinical Studies**

Access to excellent basic science facilities, clinical samples, and reliable clinical data are necessary to answer the big questions in medicine. Cell lines are patient, but patient samples are the key to a realistic understanding of what happens in the patient. At Juntendo University, we established a department to use bioresources to promote medical research. We collected COVID-19 patient samples and samples from individuals after vaccination. Bioresource banks can quickly provide valuable clinical data and patient material to the global scientific community. Receiving long-term funding for biobanks like ours will be another step to scientific preparedness. Having modules in place to conduct international rather than national clinical studies is another level of scientific preparedness.

Storms will come more often. Scientific preparedness can help us to react faster.

## Lecture III

### Global perspective-pandemic preparedness and response

Nahoko Shindo, MD, PhD

Senior Advisor

Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness Department  
WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Two years have passed since the first report of COVID-19 at the end of 2019. The global epidemic of COVID-19 is still ongoing. The number of patients is increasing especially in Europe and the United States due to the start of new academic year, international travel and the resumption of socio-economic activities. According to WHO's data, vaccines have already been received more than 1 billion times; however, there are countries where the vaccination rate is below 40%, mainly in low-income countries such as those in Africa. Equal provision of vaccines is an urgent issue in terms of global epidemic control.

Japan has the lowest COVID-19 mortality rate among developed countries. It is worth noting that in an overwhelmingly super-aging society, Japan was able to protect its vulnerable people and suppress the impact of COVID-19 without conducting a major lockdown. The recent drastic decrease in the number of patients is thought to be due to the following reasons: good hygiene practices have been thoroughly implemented, and public health interventions (the cancellation or postponement of large-scale gatherings, the setting of occupational guidelines, and performing infection control measures at medical institutions) were effectively implemented.

Moreover, vaccination was conducted quickly, and a sense of crisis permeated even among groups with limited access to public health messages also known as the "information pocket", owing to news that reported the death of young people at home

and people who were stuck inside of ambulances and not able to enter medical institutions, as well as social media communications.

According to information collected worldwide by WHO, about 170 "pandemic leads" are detected each year. In addition, a major incident related to infectious disease has occurred almost every 4-5 years since the beginning of the 21st century. Many of the newly re-emerging infectious diseases, including COVID-19, have been animal-origin pathogens. Environmental changes on the earth caused by a variety of reasons are affecting the outbreak and spread of these zoonotic infectious diseases. Large-scale epidemics and pandemics of infectious diseases will surely continue to occur in the future. It is necessary to create crisis management measures and business continuity plans with these facts in mind.

## Lecture IV

### COVID-19 in Germany

**Mathias B. Bonk, MD, MSc, DTM**  
 Chairman of the Board  
 Berlin Institute of Global Health

Almost two years after the first COVID19 cases have been reported and despite a wide range of often drastic measures such as lockdowns, the pandemic is far from being over and Europe and Central Asia are now at the epicenter of it again (WHO, November 4, 2021). In Germany with its 83.2 million inhabitants 5.045 million cases have been diagnosed so far and 97.715 people have died due to or with COVID19 (RKI, November 15, 2021). While Germany has been lauded for its successful response at the beginning of the pandemic, it is now in its 4th wave with an exponential growth of cases (up to about 50.000 / day) and a growing number of daily deaths. While there are only limited restrictions such as compulsory mask wearing in shops, but no lockdowns or school closures, in place right now, the hospital capacities, especially in intensive care units, are reaching their limits in more and more regions in

Germany. This also applies to several neighboring countries such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, or the Netherlands. One of the main reasons for these developments are the insufficient vaccination rates, often due to either a lack of political leadership and/or an ongoing distrust in politicians, public health authorities and scientists. This presentation will provide you with an overview of the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany over time, the current situation, important factors contributing to these as well as challenges, opportunities, and possible solutions.

## Introduction of speaker of discourse

**Kenichi Ishibashi, MD, PhD**  
 Chairman, Board of Directors, IMSJ

Prof. Dr. jur. Heinrich Menkhaus, a full professor at Meiji University's Faculty of Law Graduate School of Law, will give a lecture entitled "Based on comparison of the Japanese and German Constitution - Does the Japanese Constitution need change?"

Dr. Menkhaus has had a long relationship with our foundation since he was a professor at the University of Marburg's Center of Japanese Studies in Germany, 17 years ago.

When our foundation members visited Germany, he very kindly took care of us.

## Discourse

### Based on comparison of the Japanese and German Constitution-Does the Japanese Constitution need change?

**Prof. Dr. jur. Heinrich Menkhaus**  
 Full Professor, Faculty of Law and Graduate School  
 of Law, Meiji University  
 Director, MICL

It is of course possible to compare the German and the Japanese constitutions as both states have written constitutions. But to use the German one as

a model for change of the Japanese one might for a number of reasons not be the best idea. Too different are the underlying histories and too different the very principles that guide the two constitutions. To give just a simple example, Germany is a federal state, Japan a centralized one, Germany is a republic, Japan more a monarchy, although the Japanese constitution does not stipulate the head of state and Germany has to integrate itself into building a new state, the EU, something not visible in East Asia.

It is better to look for guidance in the theoretical discussions of what needs to be written in a constitution and what the typical judicial terms used in constitutions mean. In this respect, both constitutions have their shortcomings and both need constant change. Let's just have a look at the regulations in both constitutions on the basic features that constitute a state. No mention of the territory in both and almost no mention of how to gain citizenship. The Japanese constitution entrusts this question completely to a separate law and the German constitution restricts itself to the prohibition of extradition of German citizens, without giving even a hint of how citizenship is to be acquired.

The same situation is to be found when it comes to the more formal regulations of name of the state, flag, anthem, symbol and spoken and written language. In the Japanese constitution there is no mention of either and the German one only says about the flag, that it has three colors, namely black, red and gold.

As far as the guiding principles of the state are concerned the picture does not look much better. Democracy, Rule of Law, Welfare State etc. are not even mentioned in the Japanese constitution, although Japan of course claims that it is following these principles. In Germany the very important Rule of Law is mentioned only in Art. 28 of the Basic Law, where it does not belong, because this article stipulates the guiding principles for the constitutions of the states that created Germany as a Federal State, but of course the Rule of Law also governs

the Federal State as such.

As a result it is not surprising that the German constitution, which was promulgated in 1948 and therefore is only a little younger than the Japanese one, has been revised 63 times up to date, while the Japanese constitution of 1946 was not changed even once. This is of course due to the very high requirements for constitutional change in Japan, but it has led to a visible disparity between the facts and their legal regulation, which causes a fundamental loss of trust in the validity of legal regulation.

There are some features in the current Japanese constitution that offer food for thought in Germany. For example, the public vote on the cabinet appointed judges of the Japanese Supreme Court could be introduced to the German constitution to improve the guiding principle of democracy and the autonomy of the administration of the Japanese Supreme Court over all affairs of the judiciary in Japan could, being taken over in Germany upgrade the separation of powers as part of the guiding principle of Rule of Law in the German constitution.

There might also be some features in the German Basic Law that could help to improve the Japanese constitution. On the basis of the necessity of executing democracy as a guiding principle there should not be the possibility to close the lower house of the parliament by sole decision of the prime minister, because the political party to which the prime minister belongs should not be able to take advantage of a favorable view of his party among the voters. Again to strengthen the principle of democracy it might be recommendable to enlarge the parliamentary control of cabinet decisions by creating the necessity of parliamentary consent as this is done in the German constitution e.g. for the deployment of the armed forces.

## **Closing Remarks**

Kenichi Ishibashi, MD, PhD  
Chairman, Board of Directors, IMSJ

We appreciate that many people participated in the 61st International Congress on Therapy organized by our foundation. We would like to thank Dr. Harada, Dr. Heissig, Dr. Shindo, and Dr. Bonk for their very thoughtful lectures on the COVID-19 infection. In early spring, we planned the theme of this congress to be the "Post-Corona Medical System", assuming that the corona infection would have subsided. However, the situation has become contrary to our expectations, so we had to change the theme to "Medical systems with COVID-19" on short notice. Now, there are concerns about a sixth wave of COVID-19 infections in Japan. We hope that today's lecture will be useful to everyone in their daily lives immediately, as well as for medical treatment in how to deal with this virus from now on.