

6th meeting of the "IT" working group within DJW

Munich, 11.03.2015

Summary

After a minute's silence for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan 4 years ago the participants introduced themselves and briefly described their background and motivation.

The first talk by Dipl.-Inf. Martin Uhl (Technical University Munich) provided insights into the foundations of communication theory, focusing on perceptions and realities of modern internet communication. Mr. Uhl pointed out that monitoring and storing all internet communication is not as complex as most people would expect and even relatively affordable.

Therefore companies should not ignore this fact and not only encrypt all data, especially seemingly non-important data, but also educate employees about responsible communication styles and trustworthy pathways. Later he explained the value of end-to-end encryption and software products like GPG, PGP, S/MIME and OTR, pointing out the benefits of the open source movement. The conclusion was, that nowadays one could not be paranoid enough about securing one's business communication over the internet.

The second talk by Dr. Hermann Gumpf gave a brief history of communication in Japan illustrated by exhibits from the "Communications Museum Tokyo". The rapid change of communication

styles during the Meiji restoration and the role of Japan as a leader in the digital revolution was demonstrated in various examples. Differences in national as well as in corporate culture certainly

make Japan stand out in many ways. Not only man-to-man communication but also machine-to-machine communication and innovative human-machine interfaces offer opportunities for

making business communication more reliable and efficient. In other cases however psychological barriers may inhibit the implementation of technological innovations when dealing with international partners and pre-internet business manners can hardly be translated to modern age. Here lies huge potential for technology companies, both in Germany and in Japan. Commonly shared values on both countries and long-term considerations for sustainable businesses are a solid base for common understanding.

The evening was concluded with a duo concert by the violinist Tomoko Ishida and the pianist Yutaka Nishimura who performed pieces by Mozart and Beethoven.