

11th Meeting of the DJW IT Working Group

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - International efforts by the Personal Information Protection Commission

Local Climate Action - Mitigating risks of global warming by local communities

Tokyo, October 5th 2017

The working group meeting started with a short introduction round and general remarks on the Japanese-German Business Association (DJW) and its working groups.

We were honoured to have Secretary General Mari Sonoda and Deputy Director for International Affairs Rie Tsuda from the Personal Information Protection Commission Japan (PPC) attend our meeting. Secretary General Sonoda also gave a talk about “International efforts by the Personal Information Protection Commission”. In Japan, the PCC is well-known for having introduced “My Number”, a unique identification number issued to citizens for taxation, social security and disaster response purposes. Founded in January 2016, the independent government organisation is responsible not only for executing relevant laws and the Japanese Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI) but also for engaging in negotiations with the European Commission concerning the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Secretary General Sonoda highlighted some of the similar approaches between the GDPR and APPI, such as country adequacy decisions for cross border transfers, establishing agreement standards for companies, and managing consent from data subjects. However, there are also differences which have led to extended negotiations for setting up a framework for mutual transfer of personal data. The aim is to produce results by early next year, at the latest, before the enforcement date of GDPR, May 25th 2018. The talk was followed by an engaging Q&A session tackling legal and technical issues of privacy and data protection.

For the second half of the meeting, Dr. Daniel Kremers and Dr. Hermann Gumpff gave a presentation on the research project by the German Institute for Japanese studies (DIJ), “Local Climate Action” (LCA). LCA is an online platform that maps and showcases renewable energy projects initiated by local communities in Japan which mitigate risks of global warming. The free and open platform provides an extensive survey for participants to share detailed information about their projects, to connect with each other and exchange knowledge. Selected projects will be featured on the LCA website in Japanese, German and English early next year, alongside an interactive map that enables people to browse through projects and see a range of statistical data such as greenhouse gas emissions, population, percentage of renewable energy etc. A public beta version is currently available at: <https://beta.local-climate-action.org/>

Thank you again to all our speakers and special thanks to Prof. Dr. Franz Waldenberger and Dr. Daniel Kremers for hosting the working group session at the German Institute for Japanese studies (DIJ).