



5th German-Japanese | 5th International
Symposium on Nanostructures

*March 4-6, 2012
Wenden/Olpe, Germany*

**Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy,
Building, Housing and Transport of the
State of North Rhine-Westphalia**



address by

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**Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport
of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia**

for the

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The state of North Rhine-Westphalia is one of Germany's most innovative and economically important. To further strengthen this position, it is important to provide an attractive environment for innovation and growth to the actors in research and industry. This is not about quick profits, but economically successful, socially equitable and ecologically sustainable economy. In a country where people like to live, entrepreneurial activity can grow better. This strengthens the overall economy.

Economic policy in North Rhine-Westphalia has positioned itself well in front of these global challenges in recent years. Short-term thinking, which characterizes the financial markets, cannot cover the global challenges of sustainable development for future needs. This is particularly related to the finiteness of resources and insofar to the "limits of traditional growth" in long-term.

Sustainable solutions for the future include a low emission economy as well as a resource-saving, energy-efficient global economy. Thus, sustainability is the innovation driver for the evolution of the economy.

This applies to the development of new materials for healthcare, for new media and communication technologies, mobility as well as the efficient and sustainable production and use of energy. The key to new materials is represented by nanotechnology and nanostructured materials. They help to use less material at new and improved material properties.

The international cooperation in this area is an important factor for success. Here, Japan and Germany are looking back on a long and close relationship in both, education and economy. At this, North Rhine-Westphalia plays a significant role, which is shown by the fact that with about 500 Japanese companies and nearly 12.000 Japanese fellow citizens, we host the largest Japanese community in continental Europe.

I am very pleased that the „5th German-Japanese Symposium on Nanostructures“ is taking place at us in North Rhine-Westphalia and welcome the participants, particularly from Shiga Prefecture, to our state.

I wish you a successful symposium with many good ideas and new innovations!

Yours

sgd.

Harry Kurt Voigtsberger