

Dieter Lenzen President of Universität Hamburg



My dear colleagues from Kyoto and Hamburg,

I am delighted that we —researchers from Kyoto and Hamburg— have been able to meet in these three days in Hamburg in order to firmly establish future collaboration. To this end, we have agreed to jointly hold this symposium. We will explore our universities' research interests, which may be similar or even the same; exchange thoughts about our research goals, methods, and procedures; and agree upon concrete forms of cooperation.

This should cover the entire spectrum of international cooperation: from joint externally funded research projects through the exchange of students and doctoral students to joint publications and conferences. In short, everything that can expand our universities' cooperation in both research and teaching. We would like to establish concrete timetables, identify projects, and look to the future together.

We also wish to use this occasion to sign a joint Memorandum of Understanding, marking a further formal step in our cooperation. In Hamburg, we are delighted by the openness and hospitality of our colleagues from Kyoto and we wish to respond in kind.

The *Kyodai* is the first university in Japan with which we seek such intensive cooperation. Thus, this partnership is an important component in our internationalization strategy, according to which we are pursuing a limited number of very strong strategic and sustainable partnerships with select, internationally outstanding institutions.

I wish you great success with your discussions, presentations, and agreements.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dieter Lenzen