



**Speech by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
at the presentation of the Siebold Award  
Schloss Bellevue,  
27 June 2019**

A warm welcome to Schloss Bellevue, ladies and gentlemen, and a particularly special welcome to you, Professor Noguchi. I am most delighted and honoured to present you with the Philipp Franz von Siebold Award today.

This Award is steeped in history as are the close relations shared by our two countries, Japan and Germany. We are united in our commitment to democracy and the rule of law, to human rights and to our obligations towards our partners in the international community.

Year for year, the Siebold Award reminds us of this German-Japanese partnership, of the close economic ties between our countries, of the intensive exchange between our people but above all else of the dense network of academic contacts stretching from one end of Eurasia to the other. The Siebold Award is a special decoration for figures who have made an outstanding contribution to these ties.

Professor Noguchi,

Your works, starting with your dissertation on Max Weber, are discussed and treasured in Japan and Germany alike just flick through the arts section of our newspapers. Your work is an expression of historic experience and theoretical discourse in intercultural exchange. And particular demands are made of your field, the field of politics and social science, when it comes to providing orientation as we shape our society, the liberal democracy.

Your analysis of the works – first and foremost – by Max Weber, but also Georg Simmel, Hannah Arendt, Jürgen Habermas and others, has made you into a bridge-builder between our two countries, cultures and academic landscapes. Paying tribute to these achievements, I hereby present you with the Philipp Franz von Siebold Award 2019.

I wish you all the very best for your work and congratulate you most warmly on this Award.