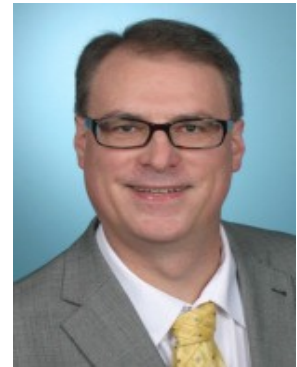


Dr. Matthias Koch

Dolmetscher, Informationsvermittler, Japan-Berater
Koch Japan Consulting
Ringstraße 89a
12203 Berlin
Germany



Johannes Justus Rein – A German Geographer in Japan

Johannes Justus Rein (1835–1918) belongs to the first generation of foreigners who could move as freely as no one before throughout large parts of Japan in the early Meiji period (1868–1912). He used this freedom extensively and intensively for a research journey between 1873 and 1875 on behalf of the Prussian Ministry of Commerce while the Japanese Empire still seemed to be an unfinished nation state threatened to become patronized or even colonized like its neighboring negative role model China. In the 1880s, Rein became well known not only in German-speaking countries but also in the Anglo-American world through publishing his findings under the title *Japan. Travels and Researches Undertaken at the Cost of the Prussian Government* (1884) and *The Industries of Japan. Together with an Account of its Agriculture, Forestry, Arts, and Commerce: from Travels and Researches Undertaken at the Cost of the Prussian Government* (1889). Having appointed full professor of geography, Rein supported Japanese overseas students like e.g. Yamasaki Naomasa (1870–1929) as an academic supervisor and teacher and received in return their support in his continued efforts doing research on Japan.

CV

Matthias Koch has studied modern social and economic history and Japanese studies at Philipps University of Marburg and The University of Tokyo (Tokyo Daigaku). His M.A. thesis and his doctoral dissertation were published as books: “Japan’s Nuclear Energy Policy in Historical Perspective” (1992) and “Conversion from Military to Civil Production in Japan after the Second World War: From a War Economy to a Global Economic Power” (1998). Matthias Koch holds many years of experience as a researcher and a lecturer, and served twice as a deputy professor in Marburg, Tokyo, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, and Berlin. He is doing business as an independent consultant, an information broker and a cultural translator that is to say a “bridge-builder between Germany and Japan” [日独交流の架け橋] serving diverse needs for economic, political, and civil society players with scientific and technological interests.

Contact: E-mail: mk@koch-japan-consulting.com, <https://koch-japan-consulting.com>