

LEAN and *Kaizen* - Learning Journey to Japan



Seminar '**Lean Production and Management – Operational Excellence of Companies in Japan**'

Our Benchmark Training Journey is scheduled for the duration of **8 days**. It starts on a Saturday and ends on the Saturday of the following week (departure from Europe on Friday, return and arrival in Europe on Sunday of the following week, see example below).

We offer the possibility of an **Open Japan Seminar** for executives and improvement experts from various companies as well as an **Exclusive Japan Seminar** for a closed group of participants of a single company.

Before the trip to Japan begins, a **one-day preparatory seminar** will be held to provide participants with the necessary background knowledge and prepare them for the seminar week. The seminar language is German or English. In addition, mixed solutions are also possible, e.g. subgroups with their own interpreters in their own language.

About the concept: In addition to a thorough introduction to the philosophy and the management tools of lean production, the seminar provides a unique insight into the practice of selected flagship companies in Japan. The seminar focuses on two areas. Firstly, the **application of lean production** with the associated methodical approaches and activities in different flagship companies. The second focus is the accompanying **leadership style** – the key success factor for any programme of lean reforms or continuous improvement activities.

The seminar will allow participants to experience lean leadership first-hand; it will provide ideas and inspiration – with an invigorating and lasting impact beyond the duration of the trip. The Learning Journey is not limited to company visits: The seminar concept ensures a qualified evaluation of what has been observed via intensive individual and group work. This is designed to transfer the experience of the individual participant to their own personal sphere and area of responsibility – with the aim of conveying ideas for their workplace (lean / leadership) and providing a powerful impetus for the improvement process in their own company. The fundamental concept is: **Ultimately, the only thing that counts is what is then implemented in your own company.**

Our online survey of participants from 2012 – 2015 has confirmed the effectiveness of the concept and that subsequent improvements are made: over 80% of respondents reported that

- specific improvement measures had been implemented, and
- there had been a change in their own leadership style.

So not only did the participants personally benefit, there were also specific gains for their companies. (The questions and answers from the online survey and their evaluation can be found on the website below; currently only in German though.)

The participation fee for the preparatory training and seminar week in Japan is between **7 400 EUR (net)**. The price for participants includes preparatory training, company tours, and domestic travel expenses (hotels, conference rooms, bus rentals); however, it does not include travel costs to and from Japan and evening meals. In principle, a Japan Seminar can be held if the minimum number of participants required for the seminar to be held has been reached. The minimum number of participants is 16. The aim is a group of 20 participants.

The seminar is not suitable for persons with **limited mobility** because of the factory tours in the Japanese companies.

Detailed information and statements from participants of previous Japan seminars can be found at www.rdinterlogue.com/en/japan_seminar.

We would be very happy if you could let interested colleagues or persons know about our seminar.

Registration is done in four steps:

- 1) Interested parties send an informal enquiry via email to ditzer@interlogue.de ('information request').
- 2) We will reply, sending you our terms and conditions and further information ('pre-contractual information'), asking you for first participant data.
- 3) The participants register in person ('contract offer').
- 4) We will confirm – thereby booking your participation and concluding the contract ('confirmation of the tour operator').

We are happy to help you with any questions.

With kind regards
Roman Ditzer

Dr. Roman Ditzer

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If you are interested, we will gladly add you to our mailing list. Simply register with your email address: www.rdinterlogue.com/en/register

This **example itinerary** (of our Open Japan Seminar in November 2017) shows a typical programme with 5–6 company visits and supporting programme of our eight-day seminar week in Japan. **Please note** that the schedule and the companies may differ from the programme listed here.

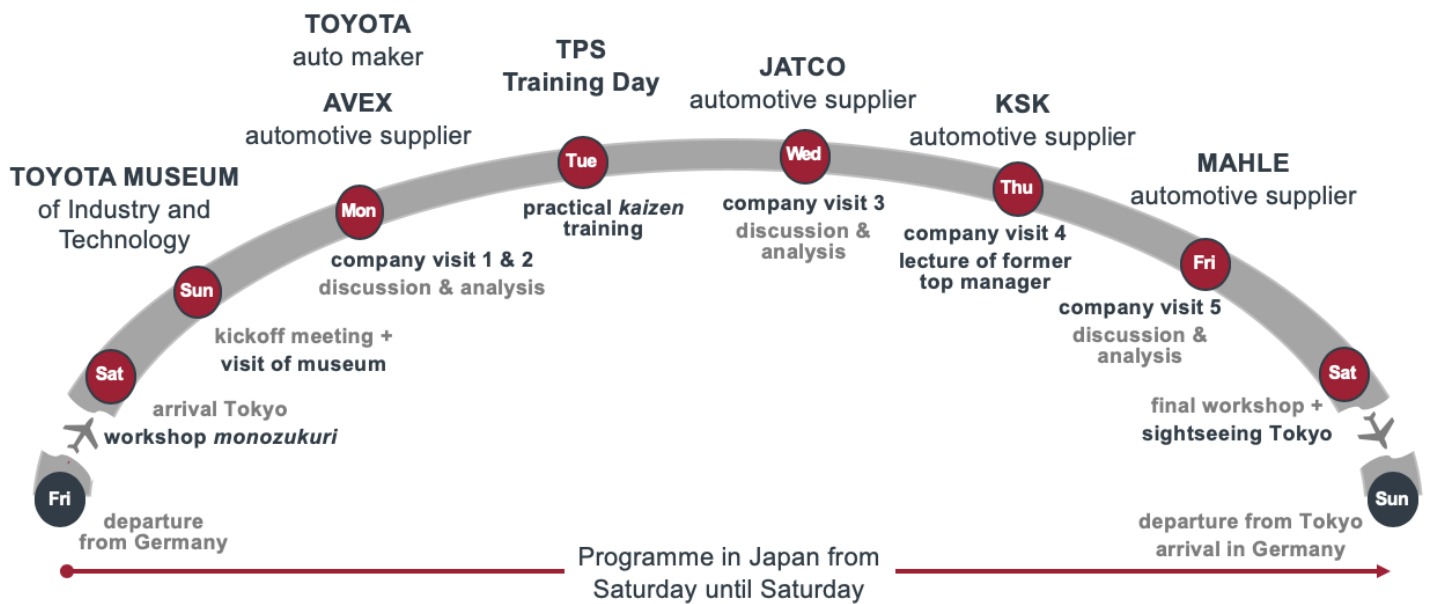
LEARNING JOURNEY 2017

Open Japan Seminar November

Exemplary programme & overview

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Please note:
Companies and
schedule may differ
from this example.

Mon 8 programme days in Japan
Sun transfer days



Learning Journey – Scope of Services

- Organisation and execution of the 'Learning Journey'
- Advance information for participants' travel preparations
- 'Seminar Folder' (more than 100 pages, in print and digital version) including training materials on individual aspects, such as leadership in Japanese lean companies, etc.
- One-day preparatory seminar in Japan immediately prior to the 'Learning Journey'
- Five to six visits of 'flagship companies' in Japan
- One-day practical *Kaizen* training by former Toyota TPS trainers in Japan
- Presentation and Q&A session with a former Japanese top manager
- Discussions to evaluate the company visits and to document the results
- Services by Dr Ditzer as the accompanying consultant and interpreter:
 - Accompanying the Japan study trip
 - Specialist presentation for the preparatory seminar
 - Specialist commentaries on the topics LEAN in Japan, *Kaizen* and TPS – prior and subsequent to the company visits, specialist presentation at kick-off meeting in Japan
 - Expert explanations about Toyota, in particular Toyota Production System (TPS), 'Change Management', 'Motivating Leadership', 'Corporate Culture of Improvement', company history, strategy, and more.
 - Elucidation on the Japanese economy, the Japanese automobile industry, as well as on the society, culture, country & people, etc.
 - Interpreting during factory visits, Q&As, as well as management discussions
 - Leading the discussion rounds for evaluating company visits
- English-Japanese language interpretation by two interpreters during the time in Japan
- Accompaniment and supervision by a tour guide / assistant
- Travelling expenses:
 - Domestic travel expenses within Japan for the participants and attendants
 - Accommodation for participants and attendants in Japan
 - Breakfast and lunch for participants and attendants during the stay in Japan
 - Dinner for participants and attendants on the first and last day in Japan
 - Conference rooms for the evaluations and discussion rounds
 - Bus transfer from and to the airport in Japan for the largest group (only for one group)
 - Wi-Fi service on bus journeys
- Evaluation and documentation files to all participants
- Certificate of qualification in the topics Lean Production / Management and *Kaizen* in Japan for all participants

Please note: The **international flights** of the participants are **not included** in this package. Arrival and departure to the hotel / from the hotel in Japan are individual and at your own expense. **Arrival and departure for the preparation seminar as well as overnight stay on site** are also **not included** in the service package.