**“German Legal Structures and American Promises – Taiwan’s Democracy and the Rule of Law”**

**Ian-tsing Dieu in Conversation with Hanno Kube**

Since the late 1980s, Taiwan has become a thriving democratic state based on the rule of law. Taiwan’s democracy and its constitution have evolved, based on two pillars, German and American: 1. The *Weimar Constitution* has had a major influence on the constitution of Taiwan –  fundamental values such as a state’s legal basis, the relationship between citizens and state, organizational structures and basic political principles were fundamental in the making of Taiwan’s constitution. 2. The second frame of reference has been the *Taiwan Relations Act* of 1979, which provides the legal basis for the tripartite relationship among the U.S., China and Taiwan and thus secures the safeguarding of regional peace and stability.

As part of the **Public Lecture Series** *Encounters: New Perspectives On Asia, America, And Europe*, **Ian-tsing Dieu**, Director General of Taipei Representative Office in Munich and **Hanno Kube**, Faculty of Law, Heidelberg University, will engage in a conversation on the topic of „German Legal Structures and American Promises – Taiwan‘s Democracy and the Rule of Law“

**Dr Ian-tsing Joseph Dieu**, born in Taichung, Taiwan, is Director General at the Taipei Representation in the Federal Republic of Germany, Munich. After initially studying engineering, he was inspired by the democracy movement and the legal counsel for political dissidents in Taiwan and thus turned to studying law at the College of Law of the National Chengchi University in Taiwan and at the Universities of Heidelberg (LL.M.) and Freiburg (Dr. iur.) in Germany. Before his diplomatic career, Dr. Dieu worked at the Max Planck Institute for International Criminal Law and Criminology in Freiburg, as a lecturer at the law faculty of Chungyuan Christian University, as an assistant professor at the Chinese Culture University Taiwan, and finally as Deputy Director General in the Department of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later at the National Security Council of the Republic of China (Taiwan). His first diplomatic posting was to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Prof. Dr. Hanno Kube,** LL.M. (Cornell) is Director of the Institute for Public Finance and Tax Law at Heidelberg University and holds the Chair for Public Law with a special focus on public finance and tax law. He studied law at Heidelberg University, the University of Geneva, and Cornell University. After obtaining his doctorate and habilitation in Heidelberg, he worked as professor at the universities of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt and Mainz. His research focuses on constitutional and European law, public finance law, and German, European, and international tax law. He is co-editor of the *Handbook on Constitutional Law*, of a commentary on income tax law and of the tax law journal *Steuer und Wirtschaft*. He acts as representative before the Federal Constitutional Court, the Federal Administrative Court, and the Court of Justice of the European Union. He has been guest researcher/guest professor at the European University Institute Florence, the University of Berkeley, Cornell University, and National Taiwan University.