

■■ 海外通信 ■■

私が勝手に短縮した返信の全文です。

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enclosed the reaction of German media:

Rather conservative media write:

New head of the ruling party Yoshihide Suga is supposed to lead Japan Japan's ruling party LDP has elected Yoshihide Suga as party leader - he will also succeed Prime Minister Abe. But who is the man who stood by Abe's side for a long time? Yoshihide Suga is an ascetic. He doesn't smoke, doesn't drink, and is supposed to do 200 situps a day. His biggest appearance to date was last year when he announced the new Reiwa era in the course of the change of emperor. At that time a new era began.

In a way, that is also the case now, because with Shinzo Abe's resignation at the end of August, an era will come to an end. And with Yoshihide Suga comes someone who has not always had an easy life.

The 71-year-old's parents had a strawberry farm, as Suga says: "I'm the eldest son of a farming family from Akita Prefecture. Because I didn't want to take over the family business, I moved to Tokyo straight after school. In a small factory I had to earn money first. That's why I couldn't go to university until two years later. "

Right hand of Premier Abe

Suga studied political science, entered politics at 26 and was elected to parliament almost 20 years later. In Abe's first term in government from 2006 to 2007 he was Minister of the Interior, and from 2012 he was government spokesman. He has worked his way up, knows all sides of life - that could be an advantage, says political analyst Tobias Harris: "He may have a more holistic view of politics and government than the prime ministers before him. That could be a reason for optimism, if he takes over the office. "

For many years, Suga was not only considered to be Abe's right-hand man, but also the one with visions. It was his idea to open the door more to migrants, says Harris, who has just published a biography of the outgoing Prime Minister Abe: "He is a bigger political realist than Abe and has more of an eye on Japan's international position must in order to be successful. " However, he does not have much leeway in the one-year term of office.

Big challenges

Suga himself sounds more like something else like this: "I will continue and develop Abenomics. And I want to maintain the same relationship with the Japanese central bank as Prime Minister Abe." So continue with loose monetary policy and even more debt? Great challenges await the future head of government.

Suga is aware of this: "We are experiencing the greatest economic decline in the post-war period with the coronavirus. The first thing we have to do is overcome this crisis. That is very important." To this end, the liberal democrat absolutely wants to revive tourism, which has almost come to a standstill.

Relationship with the USA as a basis

Just as Suga reliably eats buckwheat noodles almost every day, he wants to stick to his previous foreign policy: "The relationship with the USA is the basis of our diplomacy. That is why I visited the USA last year and met with Vice President Pence, among others. This alliance is also the starting point for building relationships with our neighboring countries, "says Suga.

For example to North Korea, to finally clarify what happened to the Japanese who were kidnapped decades ago. His predecessor Abe did not succeed.

Rather Liberal Media write:

Japan's parliament has elected 71-year-old Yoshihide Suga as the new head of government. He succeeds Shinzo Abe. After a record tenure of almost eight years, he resigned for health reasons.

Suga, who was Abe's right-hand man for all these years, serving as cabinet secretary and government spokesman, is the oldest head of government in Japan for around three decades. He wants to present his cabinet today. This will include many ministers who were already there under Abe.

Suga on Abe line

Suga wants to continue Abe's economic policy of monetary easing, debt-financed economic stimulus programs and reforms in order to master the corona crisis and make the economy more productive. Already on Monday the ruling party LDP, which has a majority in parliament, made Suga the new party leader.

Suga, who cultivates the image of a "self-made" man and whose motto is "Where there is a will, there is a way", faces a number of great challenges. The number three in the world economy, which Abe wanted to bring out of stagnation with his economic policy called "Abenomics", slipped into recession in the wake of the corona crisis.

Foreign policy challenges

According to observers, the promised major structural reforms did not materialize under Abe. At the same time, however, there were several smaller reforms, which Suga was responsible for working out and difficult to implement: from the free trade agreement with the European Union to a reform of the social security system, the re-employment of older citizens and an agricultural reform.

In terms of foreign policy, Suga, who has so far hardly traveled abroad, faces a number of major challenges. These include neighboring China's drive for power in the region, the threat posed by North Korea's missile and nuclear program and the heavily strained relationship with South Korea. Japan has also been fighting over the Kuril Islands in the Pacific with Russia for decades. He also has to develop a good relationship with the winner of the US presidential election.

Japan's exports are still recovering from the slump as a result of the Corona crisis, but are still well below the values of the previous year. In August they fell by 14.8 percent year-on-year to 5.2 trillion yen (42 billion euros), the Japanese Ministry of Finance announced in Tokyo. This is the smallest decline since March and also a little less than experts had expected. The sharpest decline occurred in May, when exports had fallen 28 percent to 4.2 trillion yen.

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From NY Times: "Japan's New Leader Picks His Team: Familiar Men, and Fewer Women... Yoshihide Suga's status quo cabinet suggested that he was rewarding the factions inside his party that had helped him become prime minister.... Mr. Suga, 71, put forward an everyone-old-is-new-again cabinet dominated by ministers who will continue in the jobs they held under Shinzo Abe, who resigned as prime minister late last month because of ill health. The sea of familiar faces sent an unmistakable signal that Mr. Suga intends to make good on his vow to carry on with Mr. Abe's signature policies. But it also seemed to shut the door on one of them: a pledge — though a largely unfulfilled one — to empower women. The number of women in the cabinet will actually decline, to two from three. Both of them held the same posts in the previous administration. Above all, Mr. Suga's status quo cabinet, as well as his appointments of key party leaders, suggested that he was rewarding those who had helped him become prime minister, which was orchestrated by factions within his conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Such gift exchanges are all the easier as the governing party has

little fear of losing the next election against an ineffectual political opposition."

From LA Times: " But behind the scenes, Suga is known for his stubbornness, an iron-fist approach as a policy coordinator and influencing bureaucrats by using the power of the prime minister's office, which led political watchers to call him the "shadow prime minister." Some bureaucrats who opposed his policies said they were removed from government projects or transferred to other posts. Suga himself recently said he would continue to do so."

From Wall Street Journal: " How does Mr. Suga differ from Mr. Abe? The two men don't differ much on basic policies. Mr. Suga also supports the Bank of Japan's monetary easing and close relations with the U.S. But he has suggested he would advocate additional deregulation and push Japan more quickly into the digital era by creating a new government agency devoted to that task. What are Mr. Suga's biggest challenges? Keeping a lid on the coronavirus pandemic is one. Japan has suffered relatively few infections and deaths compared with the U.S. and Europe, but its economy is recovering slowly from a state of emergency in April and May and the decline of global trade. Mr. Suga must also manage the fallout from conflict between the U.S. and China , since the U.S. is Japan's military protector but China is a big customer for Japan's high-tech exports. And he will try to inherit the warm relationship that Mr. Abe built with President Trump."

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