

**Profiles of Panelists for
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND GREEN GROWTH:
TRANSFORMING AFRICA'S INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE
Japan Special Room, AIF 2024**

Opening Remarks



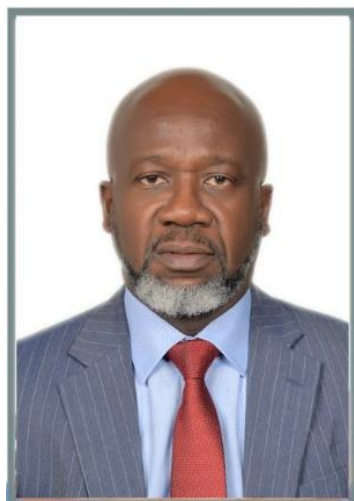
Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina
President
African Development Bank
Group

African Development Bank Group President Dr Adesina is a highly acclaimed leader who is passionate about transforming Africa. He is widely recognized for his visionary leadership, which has brought about significant improvements in Nigeria's agricultural sector during his term as Agriculture Minister from 2011-2015. Through his bold reforms, Dr Adesina put an end to 40 years of corruption in the fertilizer sector by implementing an innovative electronic wallet system that provided farmers with subsidized farm inputs using their mobile phones. The system reached 15 million farmers and dramatically improved their lives.

Dr Adesina was first elected President of the African Development Bank Group on 28 May 2015. He was unanimously re-elected for a second five-year term on 27 August 2020. Dr Adesina has been instrumental in driving the African Development Bank Group's successful High-5 strategy, which focuses on key priority areas for development in Africa. Dr Adesina is the driving force behind the Feed Africa initiative, which is a key element of the High-5 strategy. He has also launched an innovative methodology to revitalize Country Compacts, placing Heads of State at the forefront of pragmatic efforts to improve food and nutrition security in their countries, with support from the African Development Bank Group.

Dr Adesina graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics (First Class Honors) from the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Nigeria, in 1981. Dr Adesina holds a master's degree (1985) and a PhD in Agricultural Economics (1988) from Purdue University, United States of America, where he won the Outstanding PhD thesis award for that year. Dr Adesina won the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Social Science Fellowship in 1988, which launched him into his international career.

Session 1: Digitalisation and Agriculture for Sustainable Development



**Mr. Richard Kwaku
OFORI-MANTE**

Director, Agricultural Finance
and Rural Development,
African Development Bank

Mr. Richard Ofori-Mante is a seasoned and experienced development finance banker with strong leadership skills, management experience and development diplomacy. He has over 23 years of international transactional experience in debt capital markets, corporate and structured finance with demonstrated record of utilizing innovative financial structures, risk mitigating solutions and credit enhancing instruments, to mobilize capital for various transformative projects.

Mr. Ofori-Mante is the Director of the Agricultural Finance and Rural Development Department of the African Development Bank. In this role, he leads and manages engagements with government officials, development partners, and the private sector to evaluate, finance and implement the priorities of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy for Agricultural Transformation in Africa. He is also responsible for overseeing the design, finance, and implementation of the Bank's flagship program - the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) and the Africa Disaster Risks Financing Programme (ADRFi), an important initiative aimed at supporting Regional Member Countries in managing the risks of climate-related disasters. His responsibilities also extend to enhancing support to Agri-small medium enterprises through strategic financial solutions, including, but not limited to concessional and blend financing. Before joining the African Development Bank in 2010, Mr. Ofori-Mante served as a Manager in the Financial Transactions Group of Deloitte Financial Advisory Services in Chicago, USA. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Washington University in Saint Louis, USA, and a Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter holder.



Ms. Tamao TADA
Chief Business Officer,
Space Shift, Inc.

Ms. Tamao Tada has been deeply concerned about issues of poverty and climate change since her junior high school years. This early awareness shaped her academic and career aspirations, leading me to pursue a degree in Geophysics at the Faculty of Science, Tohoku University, where she focused on global warming from a scientific perspective. Building on this foundation, she continued her studies at the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences at the University of Tokyo, specializing in International Cooperation Studies. There, she conducted research on strategies to support African farmers in adapting to climate change.

Upon completing her graduate studies, she joined a leading construction consulting firm, where she spent approximately six years as a specialized consultant in climate change and renewable energy. During this time, she collaborated with governments and corporations across more than 10 countries and 20 cities in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central America to implement effective environmental measures, including renewable energy solutions and climate change adaptation strategies. In June 2021, she transitioned to Space Shift Inc., a startup in the rapidly expanding space industry, driven by her desire to harness advanced technologies to address critical social challenges. As Chief Business Officer (CBO), she is responsible for developing innovative business solutions across diverse sectors, including environment, infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and finance. Her work extends beyond domestic markets to international collaborations in Europe, the United States, and the Global South, with a focus on creating new markets and fostering impactful partnerships.



Mr. Hiroki ISHIDA

Director,
AAIC Partners Africa
Limited (Kenya)

Mr. Hiroki Ishida is a seasoned investment professional with over 10 years of experience, specializing in the healthcare and innovation sectors across Africa.

He has provided extensive oversight for two funds: the Africa Healthcare Fund (Fund 1) and the Africa Innovation & Healthcare Fund (Fund 2), collectively managing \$87 million. His expertise covers the entire investment lifecycle, including deal sourcing, due diligence, negotiation, documentation, monitoring, and value creation.

He started his career at Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation. Hiroki has experience in operations, sales, and planning in the corporate sector and has mastered a significant amount of financial knowledge. After completing an M.B.A, Ishida joined Accenture Japan Ltd. and participated in several projects: offshore development for an automobile-related company in emerging Asian countries, merger of foreign financial institutions, etc.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (in Managerial Accounting) from Kobe University, and an M.B.A from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Class of 2012).



Mr. Ryo HARADA
Project Manager,
Green Carbon Inc.

Mr. Ryo Harada has dynamically explored a variety of fields, including advertising, finance, and education. Seeking more freedom and driven by a sense of adventure, he spent three years exploring Southeast Asia while working as a digital nomad in web marketing, witnessing the dynamism and challenges of developing countries.

This experience ignited his passion for sustainable development. His search for a way to combine his business acumen with a commitment to social and environmental responsibility ultimately led him to GreenCarbon.

As Thailand manager, Ryo uses his diverse background and first-hand understanding of the region to develop and implement projects that facilitate carbon credit generation and sales operations in Thailand. He is dedicated to building a future where business success and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.



Mr. Koya MATSUNO
Co-Founder and COO
VunaPay

Mr. Koya Matsuno leverages his diverse background to transform financial access in agriculture, ensuring timely payments to smallholder farmers.

His career began at J.P. Morgan, focusing on cross-border equity deals. However, it was during his time at UCLA that Koya's passion for financial inclusion took root, as he engaged in microfinance projects in Central America and Ghana.

His commitment to financial inclusion continued with creating a crowdfunding platform for solar panels in Sierra Leone. Today, Koya leverages this diverse background to drive VunaPay's mission, uniting his financial acumen, passion for inclusion, and entrepreneurial spirit.

VunaPay

A platform for Agricultural Cooperatives that facilitates instant payment to smallholder farmers for produce delivered to the cooperatives.



Mr. Jin WAKABAYASHI
Senior Deputy Director
General of Private Sector
Partnership and Finance
Department
JICA

Mr. Jin Wakabayashi, a Japanese national, is JICA's Senior Deputy Director General of Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department where he oversees the Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) operations across the globe.

He is focused on enhancing PSIF operations by providing debt and equity instruments to effectively mobilize private capital to private sector projects in developing partner countries towards achieving the SDGs, tackling climate change, promoting quality infrastructure and poverty reduction. His key priorities include accelerating climate change resilient and sustainable societies including transition to clean sources of energy, supporting agricultural supply chain and enhancing food security, and accelerating financial inclusion and gender equity.

Previously, he was the Director in charge of the Philippines particularly extending Japanese ODA Loans in support of such areas as transportation and urban development, disaster prevention as well as peace building in Mindanao. He has also served as Director in charge of promoting/expanding collaboration and partnerships between the private sector by supporting private sector-led initiatives through business support facilities in the areas of PPP Infrastructure projects and inclusive businesses in developing/ emerging markets.

He holds a MALD degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Session 2: How the Green Transition will Create New Opportunities



Mr. Takuma TERAKUBO
CEO
& General Partner
UNCOVERED FUND

Mr. Takuma Terakubo is CEO & general partner of UNCOVERED FUND.

He founded the company in 2019 and started investing in Africa with the first fund in 2020. He aims to make collaboration with African startups and major Japanese companies to contribute to the growth of the digital economy and the company is currently investing in 29 startup companies in Africa.

He realizes business co-creation between Japanese companies and African startups.



Mr. Bekim TAHIRI
Executive & Global Sales
Manager,
Hitachi Energy Non-System
Product Packaging (NSPP)

Mr. Tahiri has held a number of management positions in Hitachi Energy and ABB in the Grid Integration business unit of Hitachi Energy (formerly ABB Power Grids) with global market exposure.

Mr. Tahiri and Hitachi Energy are supporting numerous projects in Africa in the areas of Grid expansion, grid reinforcement and integration of renewables through the supply of critical equipment to allow for efficient transfer of power to the benefit of economic and social activities in the countries of project execution.

Hitachi Energy Ltd.

Hitachi Energy Ltd. is a technology company headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. The company's products include high-voltage equipment, transformers, and services for conventional & renewable energy. Hitachi Energy is owned 100% by Hitachi Ltd, which is a Japanese multinational conglomerate founded in 1910 and headquartered in Chiyoda, Tokyo. The company is active in a range of industries, including digital systems, power and renewable energy, railway systems, healthcare products, and financial systems.



Mr. Junaid BELO-OSAGIE
Executive Director,
Investment Banking, EMEA
Mizuho Bank

Mr. Junaid Belo-Osagie is an Executive Director of the Investment Banking at Mizuho, with a specific interest in clean energy investments in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

He is also the Chairman of the Financial Advisory Group of the African Hydrogen Partnership, based in London. He started out his career in the energy sector before making a move into finance in 2008.

After a career at Citi he joined Mizuho in 2014, where he has been pivotal to the strategic and operational direction of the investment banking business which undertakes high profile multi-billion dollar debt, equity and advisory transactions across the region.

As an African executive occupying a strategic position in an eminent Japanese organization, Mr. Belo-Osagie is passionate about connecting the dots between Japanese capital and African growth stories.



Ms. Yuri UCHIDA
Deputy General Manager
JOGMEC Johannesburg
Office

Ms. Yuri Uchida specializes in energy and resources policy, geopolitics, and has a strong interest in green hydrogen and ammonia project development in Africa. Currently based in Johannesburg, she focuses on research in both the mining and energy sectors, as well as resource diplomacy.

She holds a BA and MA in International Relations and conducted a year-long research project in the Republic of Zambia as a student.

With extensive experience in resource diplomacy in the energy and metals sectors at JOGMEC, she is actively involved in advancing resource development in Africa from the perspective of Japanese resource policy.



Mr. Yuichiro AKITA
General Manager,
International and Strategic
Policy
NEXI

Mr. Yuichiro Akita is General Manager, International and Strategic Policy at NEXI. He is also President of the Berne Union (The International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers).

At NEXI, he led structured and trade finance teams in the infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing, power, and mining sectors. His experience also extends to political risk insurance. He oversaw the corporate planning and international relations, managing the agency's strategic policies. He was seconded to the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Japan, where he was Policy Analyst of overseas infrastructure business promotion. He brings over 20 years of experience in the ECA industry.

Prior to NEXI, he worked at MUFG where he was Vice President of overseas project financing.

He holds an MBA from the University of Manchester, an MSc in Development Finance from SOAS, University of London, and is currently a PhD candidate in Public Policy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.

Closing Remarks



Mr. Daiho FUJII
Deputy Vice Minister,
International Affairs
Ministry of Finance, Japan

Since he joined the MOF in 1994, Mr. Daiho Fujii has held various positions, including Alternate Executive Director for Japan of IBRD, Director for Research Division at International and Tax Bureau, Director for International Tax policy at Tax Bureau, Director for Development Policy Division at International Bureau, and Director for Planning and Administration Division at International Bureau.

He holds a LL.B. from the University of Tokyo in 1994 and MA in Political Science from the Stanford University in 1997.

Commentator



Dr. Beth DUNFORD
Vice-President
Agriculture, Human and
Social Development
African Development Bank
Group

Dr. Beth Dunford, a national of the United States, is responsible for the Bank's strategy, lending, and other activities in the agriculture, water and sanitation, human capital, education, and health sectors. She covers Bank-wide work on employment, civil society, and gender equity.

Dr. Dunford's portfolio includes managing implementation of the Dakar 2 Summit Food and Agriculture Delivery Compacts - that mobilized more than \$70 billion of government resources, development partner and private sector financing to unleash Africa's food production potential. The vice president also oversees implementation of the \$1.5 billion African Emergency Food Production Facility, the African Development Bank's comprehensive initiative to support Africa's smallholder farmers in the wake of disruption of food supplies arising from the Russia-Ukraine war. The Facility supports 20 million smallholder farmers in 37 countries with access to climate-smart seeds and affordable fertilizers. She also led technical expertise for the Bank's multi-billion-dollar response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa.

Prior to joining the Bank, she held senior-level leadership positions in the U.S. government where she managed large programs working with the private sector, civil society and multilateral institutions. She has worked with African governments to deliver agricultural, social and human development impact at scale.

Dr. Dunford also worked as Assistant to the Administrator in United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, and as Deputy Coordinator for Development for "Feed the Future," the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative.



Dr. Kevin. K. KARIUKI
Vice-President
Power, Energy Climate
Change & Green Growth
African Development Bank
Group

Dr. Kevin Kariuki has since April 2020 been the Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth at the African Development Bank and oversees the Bank's work on the expedited and sustainable alleviation of energy poverty, including pursuit of universal energy access, as well as the advancement of climate-resilient and low-carbon development trajectory, in Africa.

Under his watch, the Bank's public, and private sector energy portfolio, increasingly predominated by renewable energy, is rapidly growing, and is currently valued at about USD 10 billion. On the policy front, he has overseen amendment of the Energy Policy to preclude new investments in coal and the enactment of a new Policy and Strategy for climate change and green growth that underpin an ambitious Plan for the Bank's Paris Alignment.

A chartered engineer with over 30 years' experience, Dr. Kariuki was formerly Head of Infrastructure and the global lead on power at Industrial Promotion Services (IPS) – an affiliate of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development.

Dr. Kariuki has led the development of over US\$2b of privately financed infrastructure projects, including the USD650m 147MW Ruzizi III Hydropower Project (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda); the US\$902m, 250MW Bujagali Hydropower Project in Uganda; and the US\$650m, 1,280 Gb/s, 17,000km submarine optic fibre cable linking South and East African countries with other international broadband cables in South Africa, India and France.

He holds a PhD in Reliability of Power Systems from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Moderator for Panel Discussion



Mr. Takaaki NOMOTO
Executive Director
representing Argentina,
Austria, Brazil, Japan and
Saudi Arabia
African Development Bank
Group

Mr. Nomoto is the Executive Director representing Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Japan and Saudi Arabia since July 2021. Prior to his current position at the Bank, he served as the Senior Advisor to Executive Director for Japan, World Bank Group since July 2018. He also served as Economist at Asian Development Bank between 2011 and 2014.

Mr. Nomoto began his professional career in the Ministry of Finance of his native country Japan in 2004, and undertook various positions in Japanese Government: Budget Examiner on Multi-Ministries Budget and the Health and Welfare Budget; Deputy Counsellor on Domestic Policy Coordination at Cabinet Secretariat; Deputy Director in the Governmental Financial Institution Division; Tax Examiner at Kanazawa Regional Taxation Bureau; Development Institutions Division (MDBs Office) at International Bureau; Co-ordination Division, the Legal Division at Budget Bureau.

He holds an LLB. from the University of Tokyo, MSc in Economics, University College London (UCL) and MSc in Economic History (Research), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



Mr. Ken SHIBUSAWA
Founder and CEO, &Capital
Inc.
Vice-Chairperson, Africa
Project Team, Japan
Association of Corporate
Executives
CEO, Shibusawa and
Company, Inc.

Mr. Ken SHIBUSAWA is a seasoned entrepreneur in the investment industry in Japan and is well recognized for bridging the social sector and business. After gaining financial market experience in the late 1980s and through 1990s at JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, and Moore Capital, a global macro hedge fund, Mr. SHIBUSAWA founded in 2001, Shibusawa and Company, Inc., currently an advisory firm engaging multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Mr. SHIBUSAWA joined KEIZAI DOYUKAI (Japanese Association of Corporate Executives) in 2002 (director since 2004), where he has participated in the Africa committee since 2012 (presently vice chairman of the Africa PT). In 2016, he collaborated with other like-minded members of the committee to establish Entre Africa Japan, a program to support Japanese entrepreneurs in Africa.

He earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Texas in 1983 and his MBA from UCLA Graduate School of Business in 1987.

MC



Mr. Solomon MUGERA
Director, Communication and
External Relations
African Development Bank
Group

Mr. Mugera was appointed Director, Communication and External Relations, for the African Development Bank Group in 2021.

Before that, he was Head of Journalism for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Africa, and presided over the largest expansion of the BBC on the African continent since the 1940s, supporting the corporation in reaching a weekly audience of more than 100 million across 12 languages on radio, television, digital and social media. With an annual budget of \$42 million, Mr. Mugera managed a team of 600 staff in the UK and across Africa. He has extensive experience in leading multimedia operations, and an excellent track record of editorial leadership, communication, budget management, and stakeholder outreach.

Mr. Mugera joined the BBC in September 1998 and worked with various departments of the corporation, including as Editor of the BBC Swahili service in 2006 and then as the first African to head the African region of the BBC World Service in 2011.