

## Profiles of Panelists of Japan Special Room, AIF2023

### 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.

### Presentation Session 1: Health Sector



**Mr. Susumu TSUBAKI**

Managing Director /

Representative Partner

Asia Africa Investment &  
Consulting

Mr. Tsubaki established now Asia Africa Investment and Consulting (AAIC) in 2008, taking up the position of CEO/representative partner. Mr. Tsubaki has handled consulting and investment in support of projects such as new business nurturing, market entrance, M&A/partner search and business conversion in emerging regions including Africa.

Before AAIC, as a partner and managing director at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Mr. Tsubaki worked on projects such as business strategies, M&A strategies, new business development, globalization in various fields including healthcare/healthcare devices.

Mr. Tsubaki holds a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from The University of Tokyo. Mr. Tsubaki is a professor at the BBT University and entrepreneur course of the BBT Graduate School.



**Mr. Kenta HARA**  
CEO/Founder  
AA Health Dynamics

Mr. Hara is CEO of AA Health Dynamics Co., Ltd., and is implementing medical training business.

After graduating from Tokyo University of Agriculture Graduate School Master's Program (International Agricultural Development), Mr. Hara started his career as an assistant at the same university. In 2014, as a JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, he was assigned to the Independent State of Samoa for health promotion through vegetables.

Before launching AA Health Dynamics Co., Ltd, Mr. Hara engaged in solving medical issues and promoting health in Kenya and East Africa as the general manager of AfricaScan, a social marketing company.



**Mr. Yoichi SHIMADA**  
Founder/CEO  
Connect Afya Ltd.

Mr. Shimada is founder and CEO of Connect Afya Ltd., clinical diagnostic, research and drug discovery start-up company based in Japan and Kenya. Connect Afya has been committed to deliver world class diagnostic solutions to enhance the management of health and longevity of people in Africa since 2018.

Mr. Shimada has a unique experiencing combining his exposure to healthcare and life science field for more than 10 years as management consultant at ZS Associates, a U.S. based strategy consulting firm with experience as founding member in SENRI, Japanese IT start-up based in Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria.

Mr. Shimada holds a Master of Public Policy at University of Tokyo and M.BA. at HEC Paris.



**Ms. Ayako KASAI**  
CEO and Co-founder  
Spiker Ltd.

Ms. Kasai is CEO and Co-founder of Spiker Ltd. She has been in Rwanda for 9 years and more than 10 years engaged in projects in many countries of Africa.

Spiker has been established by 3 co-founders in Japan and Africa, who had previously experienced the sad loss of a child in their lives. Spiker developed an AI software that allows us to analyze uterine contractions and abnormal signals in a fetal heart rate. This AI software can realise safe delivery without Doctor in the hospital.

Spiker's major goal is saving the baby's life and decreasing perinatal death in the whole world.



**Mr. Kuniyuki FURUTA**  
CEO  
SOIK Corporation

Mr. Furuta is the dynamic CEO of SOIK Corporation, dedicated to advancing medical solutions for developing nations. In 2019, Mr. Furuta established SOIK in Okinawa, Japan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, championing the innovative digital obstetrics solution, SPAQ, to improve healthcare standards in the region.

Before SOIK, Mr. Furuta served COO for Lequio Power Technology in Okinawa Japan. He also worked at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) including JICA's offices in Burkina Faso and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr. Furuta graduated from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Agriculture and holds MBA from IMD, Switzerland.



**Mr. Masaki UMEDA**  
Director and Vice CEO  
SORA Technology

Mr. UMEDA, Director and Vice CEO at SORA Technology, is a distinguished professional who has made significant contributions to the world of innovation in public health in Africa. Mr. Umeda's commitment to SORA Technology dates back to the company's inception, where he proudly served as its first full-time employee. Within his role, he is predominantly focused on driving business development initiatives in African countries.

What sets Mr. Umeda apart is his expansive and interdisciplinary background, which includes policy research in various countries at energy think tanks and public interest foundations, coupled with his invaluable business development experience in Africa at another Japanese start-up.

Mr. Umeda earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Tokyo.



**Dr. Beth Dunford**  
Vice President for  
Agriculture, Human and  
Social Development  
African Development Bank  
Group

Dr. Dunford is the African Development Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development. She 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 \$52 billion of government resources, development partner and private sector financing to unleash Africa's food production potential

Prior to joining the Bank, Dr. Dunford, 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.

## Presentation Session 2: Energy and Infrastructure Sector



**Mr. Satoshi AKITA**  
CEO  
WASSHA Inc.

Mr. Akita founded WASSHA Inc. in 2013, with a strong passion for solving social problems, such as poverty and lack of various access opportunities, in Africa through profitable and sustainable business and mission “POWER TO THE PEOPLE”. In the “Energy as a Service” business, a solution for the vulnerable people who have no electricity access in the rural part of Africa, he is providing affordable solar device rental service to micro-entrepreneurs and households through local retail stores. The number of these stores reached 5,300 and is now spread across five countries, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, DR Congo, and Nigeria.

Before founding WASSHA, Mr. Akita worked as a business consultant for IBM Japan and he co-founded socket.org, a not-for-profit consulting company.



**Mr. Abu Zahed AZAD**  
International Marketing and  
Business Development  
Manager,  
KENS.CO; LTD

Mr. Azad is an international marketing and business development manager of a Japanese SME company KENS.CO; LTD since 2013.

He has vast professional experience with ODA, GGP, UNDP, JICA, JETRO, JICS and counterpart projects in Africa for over 10 years. Project management, project design, technical training to local partners in Africa as well as international shipment from Japan are the key areas of his work. Amorphous flexible solar streetlight (1mm thin) was installed for the first time in Nigeria in 2015 where he was involved as a project manager as well as technical chief. Mr. Azad loves to work for a project to achieve SDGs and light up all of Africa in the future.

Mr. Azad achieved MBA in Marketing and M.Sc. in Economics from Bangladesh.



**Mr. Koichi SATO**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
SUCRECUBE Japon Inc.

Originating from Yokohama, Mr. Sato’s entrepreneurial journey led him to Paris in 2008, where he founded an ICT company. Moved by the challenging conditions in unelectrified African clinics in 2015, Mr. Sato initiated solar and telecommunications ventures in Japan and Senegal to save lives and empower education. Mr. Sato’s efforts earned his company a special prize at the Japan SDGs Awards.

In 2023, Mr. Sato took a pivotal step towards driving economic independence in Africa by launching a solar power business. He set to develop a solar power plant, projected to generate up to 150MW, and a large-scale cold storage warehouse in Sandiara, Senegal. These future projects will synergize with irrigation agriculture to reduce food loss, ensuring that produce reaches the market, thereby invigorating the local economy and syncing with Sandiara's forward-looking plans.



**Ms. Lina ROBERT**

Co-Founder & Strategy  
Officer  
SUCRECUBE Japon Inc.

Ms. Robert is Co-Founder & Strategy Officer of SUCRECUBE Japon Inc. She is the founding leader of TUMIQUI Japon, the Senegal subsidiary of SUCRECUBE Japon Inc, for empowering Africa's development through sustainable energy and telecommunication.

Ms. Robert has been dedicating herself to deciphering the complex tapestry of African markets and crafting bespoke strategies for Japanese enterprises venturing into this rich cultural landscape. Her mission is to create a dynamic fusion of these diverse worlds, orchestrating a symphony of intercontinental cooperation. Every step in this journey has solidified her role as a catalyst for innovative partnerships, ensuring our shared aspirations translate into tangible success.



**Mr. Takuya HIROSE**

Technology Cooperation  
Manager  
Steinmüller Engineering  
GmbH

Mr. Hirose is Technology Cooperation Manager at Steinmüller Engineering GmbH, an IHI's subsidiary company based in Germany. Based on his deep technical background, Mr. Hirose is now actively seeking the opportunities to introduce IHI's decarbonization technologies, such as ammonia gas turbines, to the European and African markets. Mr. Hirose is also responsible for the maintenance projects of the power plants that IHI has supplied in Europe and Africa, especially in Morocco.

Mr. Hirose started his career in IHI Corporation, a Japanese engineering company based in Tokyo, Japan. He has more than 10 years of experience as a combustion engineer in the power sector.

Mr. Hirose holds Master's Degree in engineering.



**Ms. Hiromi SUDA**

Marketing and Business  
Development in Africa and  
APAC  
Tsubame BHB Co., Ltd

Ms. Suda is in charge of marketing and business development in Africa and APAC, in Tsubame BHB Co., Ltd, a Climate Tech from Tokyo Institute of Technology, which promotes the Small-Scale Decentralized Green Ammonia and Low Carbon Fertilizer production system.

Before joining Tsubame BHB, she has been engaged in SME development and entrepreneurship promotion both in Japan and ASEAN countries for more than 15 years and also supported Japanese SMEs' business development in the developing countries as a Project Formulation Advisor for private sector engagement at JICA in the last 4 years. She joined Tsubame BHB in January 2022, with the passion to create new business, industry and employment opportunities in Africa and APAC with Japanese cutting-edge technology.



**Mr. Takuma TERAKUBO**  
CEO & GENERAL  
PARTNER  
UNCOVERED FUND

Mr. 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. Mr. Terakubo 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.



**Ms. Airi IKEDO**  
Director & COO  
Index Strategy, Inc.

Ms. Ikedo is the Director and COO at Index Strategy, Inc., specializing in global public-private partnership (PPP) projects for social and civil infrastructure. A University of Tsukuba graduate, her international project management career is shaped by living in Indonesia, Peru, Singapore, and the Philippines, fostering her appreciation for diverse cultures and global cooperation.

In 2019, Ms. Ikedo achieved a career milestone by facilitating an MOU with Ghana's government, initiating a preparatory study for the Ghana Toll Road PPP project. The project is now in the feasibility study phase, enhancing regional transportation networks and sustainable development.

Beyond Ghana, Ms. Ikedo actively collaborates with Japanese ministries, reinforcing Japan's commitment to international development. Her dedication to environmental sustainability is evident through her negotiations for the waste-to-energy PPP project in the Philippines, promoting responsible waste resource management.



**Mr. Wale Shonibare**  
Director for Energy Financial  
Solutions, Policy and  
Regulation  
African Development Bank  
Group

Mr. Wale Shonibare has over three decades experience spanning Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa in Investment Banking and Consulting. He joined the AfDB in 2017 as the inaugural Director responsible for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation. The Financial Solutions team has since established itself as a leading transactions team across Africa, having undertaken several Mandated Lead Arranger roles and facilitated total investment of approximately USD 29 billion in numerous projects ranging from solar PV, concentrated solar, hydro-electric dams, gas-fired power plants, LNG facilities, battery storage solutions and geothermal energy plants. The Policy, Regulation and Statistics team has, under his leadership, launched well-acclaimed flagship initiatives such as the Electricity Regulatory Index to improve the enabling environment for private sector investment in the energy sector.

Prior to joining the AfDB, he held various senior management-level positions at Investment Banks and Consulting Organisations in the UK, UAE and Nigeria.

Wale holds a B.Eng (hons) in Civil Engineering from Glasgow University and an MBA from Imperial College, University of London.

**Roundtable Discussion: Feedback to the Presentation Sessions 1 and 2 from business leaders and large companies**



**Mr. Ken SHIBUSAWA**

- Chief Executive Officer, Shibusawa and Company, Inc.
- Founder and Chairman, Commons Asset Management
- Founder and CEO, &Capital, Inc.
- Senior Advisor, Brunswick Group
- Co-chairperson of the Global South Africa Committee of Keizai Doyukai

Mr. Shibusawa founded in 2001, Shibusawa and Company, Inc., a strategic advisory firm for alternative investments, ESG/SDGs alignment and human resource development. He also founded in 2008, Commons Asset Management, a mutual fund dedicated to deliver long term investment opportunities to the Japanese household. In 2023, he founded &Capital, Inc., an impact fund management company for Africa.

Mr. Shibusawa is also trustee and co-chairperson of the Global South Africa Committee of Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives), and is a member of numerous government committees, including the Council for New Form of Capitalism, established by Prime Minister Kishida. He also serves as a member of Asia Advisory Board of Chirate Venutres, a leading venture capital fund in India investing in tech startups.

He has extensive market experience at JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs as well as Moore Capital, a global macro hedge fund, where he was the representative managing director of the Tokyo Office.

He was educated in the United States from second grade elementary through college (University of Texas, BS Chemical Engineering, 1983), and then returned again for graduate school (University of California Los Angeles, MBA, 1987).



**Mr. Tadao SAIDA**

Corporate Officer, Managing Director  
Sumitomo Corporation Africa (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Saida was appointed as Managing Director of Sumitomo Corporation Africa (Pty) Ltd as of April, 2020, and has been in charge of overseeing all of Sub-Sahara Africa.

Prior to this position, Mr. Saida was Managing Director, Sumitomo Australia Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation.

In his professional career, Mr. Saida has been involved in the semiconductor materials business in the electronics sector, and in the area of mineral resources, he has worked on projects in Chile and Madagascar.



**Mr. Yusuke YAMAMOTO**  
Regional CEO for Africa and  
General Manager of  
Johannesburg Branch  
Marubeni Corporation

Mr. Yamamoto is Regional CEO for Africa and General Manager of Johannesburg Branch Marubeni Corporation.

Mr. Yamamoto joined Marubeni Corporation in 1989. In Marubeni, Mr. Yamamoto has been leading its global operations as, for instance, General Manager, Inorganic & Agricultural Chemicals Dept. (2016-17), General Manager, Asia & Pacific Agri-Input Business Dept. (2017-18), General Manager, Specialty Chemicals Dept.-II(2018-19), and General Manager, Chemicals Dept. -IV (2019-20). He is also a member of Keizai Doyukai.



**Mr. Tomonori TATSUMI**  
Chief Representative in Paris,  
Japan Bank for International  
Cooperation (JBIC)

Mr. Tatsumi is Chief Representative in Paris at Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and covers JBIC's finance in Europe and Africa. He joined JBIC in the year 2000 and since then has worked for infrastructure finance in EMEA regions as well as for energy finance for oil and gas development.

Mr. Tatsumi worked closely with African Development Bank when he was leading JBIC's finance for LNG project in Mozambique and concluded Africa's largest project finance that saw its finance close in 2020. Mr. Tatsumi also worked in JBIC's corporate planning department and has elaborated JBIC's most recent mid-term business plan with its focus on green and transition. He was in JBIC's Paris Office from 2012 through 2015 and has recently moved back to Paris to cover European and francophone African region.

Mr. Tatsumi studied at University of Tokyo and at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University.



**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.

Mr. Nomoto 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. Solomon Quaynor**  
Vice-President Private Sector,  
Infrastructure &  
Industrialization  
African Development Bank  
Group

Mr. Quaynor is the Vice-President for Private Sector, Infrastructure & Industrialization at the African Development Bank. He joined the Bank in May 2020. He has over 25 years of experience in development finance and investment banking.

Mr. Quaynor worked at IFC in various capacities for several years, becoming an emerging markets specialist investor with experience in developing business and investing across financial institutions, including bank & non-bank financial institutions, telecoms, media & technology, and infrastructure.

Mr. Quaynor is a graduate of the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He also holds an MSc in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as a BS in applied physics from Atlanta University Center.

### **Event MC and Co-MC**



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

Mr. Mugerá 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. Mugerá 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. Mugerá 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.



**Mr. Naoshige KINOSHITA**  
Officer in Charge at Asia  
External Representation  
Office  
African Development Bank  
Group

Mr. Kinoshita is the Officer in Charge (OIC) at the Asia External Representation Office of the AfDB. He has been in the office since 2021. With over 25 years of professional experience in the private sector and MDB, he specializes in the energy and infrastructure business in Africa. Prior to his current role, Mr. Kinoshita served as the Chief Investment Officer at the Energy Complex of the AfDB. He has spent a total of 10 years at the AfDB HQ since 2011, working on private sector transactions, originating and closing debt financing for energy and infrastructure projects, as well as providing equity investments in private equity funds.

Before joining the AfDB in 2011, Mr. Kinoshita gained professional experience working for various organizations, including the Japanese trading firm, ITOCHU Corporation, Enron Japan, and a Japanese satellite company. He holds an MBA from the University of California and an MSc from the University of London.