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# RI Japan 2023

## RI Japan 2023

*Japan's responses to rapid global sustainable finance evolution*

24-25 May, Toranomom Hills Forum, Tokyo

### Day one: 24 May, Wednesday

08:15

Registration

09:00

Welcome remarks from Responsible Investor

09:15

**Plenary 1: Globalisation vs localisation of ESG standards and their adoption in Japan**

- Comparing updated global regulatory disclosure standards: SFDR, SEC, UK and in Asia – are we seeing greater convergence in these standards?
- Will tighter disclosure standards actually make any tangible impact in driving capital to sustainable assets?
- What standards will Japan adopt – the ISSB or SSBJ standard? Is there a more localized approach for Japan needed given its transition needs?

10:05

**Keynote: Promoting Green Finance in Japan**

10:20

Networking break

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11:00

## Plenary 2: Accelerating Japan's path to Net Zero through the Green Transformation

- Understanding the GX Policy Package's aims for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 – how realistic and deliverable are these aims?
- GX economic transition bonds and transition finance - what is the role that this can potentially play?
- What is further needed to accelerate the transition of Japan's energy supply structure and what lessons can be learned from other OECD countries?

11:50

## Plenary 3: The evolution of data and Japan's role in data disclosure

- Understanding the FSA code of conduct for ESG evaluation and data providers - how will it impact on ESG markets?
- Can it tangibly influence investor confidence in ESG ratings and enhance ESG standards?
- Alternative data sets, what is the next generation of ESG data?

## 12:40 Networking lunch

<p><b>13:30</b> <b>Stream A-1</b> <b>Advancing voluntary carbon trading markets.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can carbon credits be used as part of a Net Zero strategy?</li> <li>- What is the role of the GX league in propelling carbon trading in Japan?</li> <li>- How to make carbon trading work cross border?</li> </ul>	<p><b>13:30</b> <b>Stream B-1:</b> <b>Integrating human rights into the investment process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How is the external environment changing from financial institutions to respond to human rights?</li> <li>- What are the major drivers for financial institutions including legal/regulatory updates?</li> <li>- What are the best practices taken by leading financial institutions?</li> </ul>	<p><b>13:30</b> <b>Stream C-1:</b> <b>ESG Fund disclosure in Japan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current regulatory environments in US and Europe vs. Japan.</li> <li>- Best practices for fund regulation</li> <li>- The impact of regulation on ESG investments</li> </ul>
<p><b>14:15</b> <b>5 minutes break</b></p>	<p><b>14:15</b> <b>5 minutes break</b></p>	<p><b>14:15</b> <b>5 minutes break</b></p>

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<p><b>14:20</b> <b>Stream A-2: Investing in the Just transition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Balancing between a Just Transition and Net zero alignment.</li> <li>- Understanding how to mitigate the social impacts of the energy transition</li> <li>- Geopolitics and the energy crisis impact on the Just transition</li> </ul>	<p><b>14:20</b> <b>Stream B-2: Diversity &amp; Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can Japan further accelerate closing the gender pay gap and increase the ratio of women in managerial positions?</li> <li>- Successfully implementing DEI change management and its relationship to improved corporate performance</li> <li>- The benefits of neurodiversity in the DEI context</li> </ul>	<p><b>14:20</b> <b>Stream C-2 Financing Solutions for Net Zero</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transition finance – what does it mean by it? Working towards a universal definition.</li> <li>- How much can sustainability-linked loans and green bonds make an impact?</li> <li>- Blended finance – how can this fill in financing gaps?</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:05</b> <b>Networking break</b></p>	<p><b>15:05</b> <b>Networking break</b></p>	<p><b>15:05</b> <b>Networking break</b></p>
<p><b>15:35</b> <b>Stream A-3: Sustainable oceans and the blue economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can Japan shift to a low-carbon ocean future?</li> <li>- What role can blue bonds and blue carbon credits play?</li> <li>- Creating sustainable fisheries: linking biodiversity conservation and food security</li> </ul>	<p><b>ESG</b> <b>Stream B-3: Case Study Showcase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examples highlighting where ESG has brought tangible results</li> </ul>	<p><b>15:35</b> <b>Stream C-3: Real Assets Roundtable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key discussion topics and insights on best ESG practices in real estate and infrastructure</li> </ul>

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# RI Japan 2023

**16:25 Break**

**16:30**

## **Plenary 4: Debating the future trajectory of ESG and its implications for investors**

- ESG has faced considerable headwinds, given the recent backlash in the US, Ukraine war and energy crisis and increasing concerns of greenwashing – what are these impacts in the longer term?
- What actions are needed to be implemented to reboot ESG's credibility and what can Japan's investor community do to enhance this?
- What lessons can Japan's ESG community learn from the backlash in the US?

**17:30**

**Drinks reception**

## **Day two: 25 May, Thursday**

**08:00**

**Registration**

### **08:00: Deep dive workshop: how to achieve a net zero goal**

The purpose of the workshop is to impart best practices and insight on how investors can set and monitor progress to a net zero goals and discuss engagement strategies for influencing companies.

The workshop will explore questions such as:

- What are the steps that investors should take to set and monitor net zero goals?
- How to evaluate climate impacts of portfolios currently?
- What are the obstacles to get more asset owners in this region to visibly commit and act on climate?
- How to engage with companies on net zero progress and decarbonisation?
- What escalation strategies and tools can investors employ with companies that aren't net-zero aligned?

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<p><b>09:45</b> <b>Stream A-4: Japan Inc’s progress in decarbonization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How corporates in Japan are making efforts to decarbonize?</li> <li>- How are traditionally fossil fuel intensive corporations leading the transformation?</li> <li>- How are corporates also integrating biodiversity issues with their decarbonization goals?</li> </ul>	<p><b>09:45</b> <b>Stream B-4: Strengthening human capital management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding the growing importance of human capital in corporate value assessment</li> <li>- Human capital disclosure practices in Japan and abroad</li> <li>- Case studies for best practices</li> </ul>	<p><b>09:45</b> <b>Stream C-5: Getting the Asset Owner perspective on ESG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What do Japanese institutional investors really want out of ESG?</li> <li>- The changing face of asset owner &amp; asset manager relationships - how are reporting and monitoring standards evolving?</li> <li>-What will be the key to determining future asset manager selection going forward?</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:30</b> <b>15 minutes break</b></p>	<p><b>10:30</b> <b>15 minutes break</b></p>	<p><b>10:30</b> <b>15 minutes break</b></p>
<p><b>10:45</b> <b>Stream A-5: Spotlight on Green Hydrogen as a path to net zero</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green hydrogen and the energy transition – how can it help decarbonise heavy industry?</li> <li>- What is Japan’s role in the green hydrogen revolution and how is it encouraging innovation?</li> <li>- What are the technological &amp; cost constraints? How realistic and effective will it be to implement green hydrogen strategies?</li> </ul>	<p><b>10:45</b> <b>Stream B-5 Corporate Sustainability and sustainable supply chains</b></p> <p>What are the commercial drivers for large MNCs to adopt sustainable practices? - What are companies doing to make their supply chains more sustainable?</p> <p>-What challenges do corporates face in implementing their sustainability strategies and disseminating information on KPIs and targets to the public and investors?</p>	<p><b>10:45</b> <b>Stream C-5: The rise of shareholder resolutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dealing with societal, environmental, and lobbying through resolutions what are the best tactics?</li> <li>- What are the main drivers for success or failure of resolutions?</li> <li>-Best practices for dealing with Anti ESG resolutions</li> </ul>

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11:30 15 minutes break	11:30 15 minutes break	11:30 15 minutes break
<p><b>11:45</b> <b>Stream A-6: Climate Changescenario planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transition scenarios: assumptions and modelling under uncertainty, and financial risks associated with delayed political action.</li> <li>- Assessing the cost of a delayed transition: the central impact of stranded assets.</li> <li>- The way forward for climate risk management in the financial sector in uncertain times.</li> </ul>	<p><b>11:45</b> <b>Stream B-6: Embracing AI and digitalisation in ESG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can Japan accelerate digitalization and change and apply it in the ESG context?</li> <li>- Why sustainability builds on digitalization</li> <li>- The future role of AI technology in ESG reporting</li> </ul>	<p><b>11:45</b> <b>ESG Future Leaders Roundtable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can the next generation break through the conservative barriers of a seniority-based culture in Japan?</li> <li>- What are they keys to success in forging a career in the industry – what are the skill sets needed?</li> <li>- Success stories from young leaders in the industry.</li> </ul>

12:30

Networking lunch

13:45

Keynote

14:00

Keynote

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**14:15**

**Plenary 5: Bringing the biodiversity challenge into the mainstream**

- How can you best manage biodiversity risk in the portfolio?
- How do investors view the Cop 15 adoption of the Post 2020 framework?
- How do you go about getting data and is biodiversity data reliable?

**15:05**

**Networking break**

**15:45**

**Keynote**

**16:00**

**Keynote**

**16:15**

**Plenary 6: The rise of impact investing as an investment strategy**

- Demystifying impact investing – what does it actually mean in 2023?
- Can impact investing really bring about tangible change whilst delivering compelling financial returns?
- How can impact investing overcome the issue of not scaling?

**17:05**

**Close of Conference, followed by networking**

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