

**The seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) Edition of Roundtable Japan**

**Confronting Heightened Strategic Challenges**

**Tokyo, 19-20 October 2021**

True to its role as the platform for thinking the future of Japan in the global context, Roundtable Japan 2021 will be among the major events of global dimension in Tokyo providing an action-oriented perspective on tackling the challenges looming for Japan's economy, society and political ecosystem as the country struggles to move ahead in an uncertain and volatile global environment and in a context still very much marked by the pandemic.

Created in 2005, Roundtable Japan is an annual *rendezvous* to review the key challenges shaping the mid-term future of Japan and to generate ideas and proposals that will have an impact on public policies and new corporate orientations. The Roundtable brings together some of the most innovative thought-leaders, political and business personalities from Japan and abroad to provide a substantial contribution to the on-going discussion on the future of Japan in the global context.

**A unique format** of well-structured brainstorming sessions is designed to generate intensive interaction leading to actionable outcomes.

**A top-level attendance**, is limited to 150 participants to ensure the representation of a variety of viewpoints while keeping a manageable size to generate maximum interaction. Participants include top business leaders from Japanese corporations as well as from global corporations involved in Japan, policy makers and public personalities, renowned academic experts, thought leaders and opinion makers from Japan and abroad.

**A prestigious media Partner**, the Nikkei, has been Roundtable Japan's media partner from the beginning, extensively reporting both in its Japanese & English papers while respecting Chatham House rule to protect the openness of the interaction which is the hallmark of the Roundtable Japan.

**The value proposition**

- A timely event: This 17<sup>th</sup> edition is scheduled at a timely moment to differentiate between the short-term impact and the longer-term implications and structural changes brought by the Covid crisis and as the awareness has increased about the acuity of some challenges and of the urgency to confront them
- A unique platform to impact the on-going discussion about the future of Japan
- A club like atmosphere to meet and interact with relevant peers
- "Straight talk" discussions (English/Japanese simultaneous translation allowing for unhindered interactions)
- A time-efficient update on Japan's key economic business and political challenges and prospects
- An opportunity to develop and nurture business relationships

**Basket of issues to be discussed during Roundtable Japan 2021**

- The global economic picture and its implications for Japan
- A turning point in Japan's politics?
- Looking towards a "green society"
- Japan's increasingly difficult balancing act between the US and China
- A status Report about corporate governance; the time for ESG is now

- The digitalization priority
- Genuine gender diversity as a great leap forward for Japan
- Lessons on resilience and bouncing back

**Steering committee:**

*Roundtable Japan benefits from the support of its Steering Committee members:*

(As of June 2021)

**Robert Alan Feldman**, Senior Advisor, Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities Co., Ltd.

**Hiroshi Maezono**, Deputy President, Tokai Tokyo Financial Holdings, Inc.

**Akira Kojima**, Senior Research Fellow, Japan Center for Economic Research

**Thierry Porté**, Operating Partner, J.C. Flowers & CEO, NPG Wealth Management

**Yu Serizawa**, President & CEO, Forma Corporation

**Claude Smadja**, President, Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory Switzerland

**Yaël Smadja**, CEO Smadja & Smadja USA Inc.

*Chaired by:* **Motoshige Itoh**, Faculty of International Social Sciences, Gakushuin University

**The conveners:**

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