



ESG Investing in a Changing Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities

at Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University

While the enthusiasm surrounding ESG investing during 2020–2022 has moderated, ESG has by no means disappeared. Rather, the focus has shifted from rapid expansion to more rigorous evaluation of its effectiveness, implementation, and long-term impact. Japan remains firmly committed to promoting sustainable finance. The Japanese Financial Services Agency (FSA) has reaffirmed that sustainable finance is a key pillar of Japan's financial system, while the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF), one of the world's largest asset owners, continues to play a leading role in advancing ESG investing globally. Against this backdrop, the symposium aims to provide a forum for practitioners, to examine the evolving role of ESG investing, discuss emerging challenges and opportunities, and explore future directions for sustainable finance in Japan and around the world.

Program

Language: English only

Date: November 14, 2026

Venue: Room 504, Academia Hall, Rokkodai 1st Campus, Kobe University

13:00: Opening remarks

Professor Ryuta Suzuki,
Dean of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University

13:05: “How Japanese Asset Managers Drive Sustainable Value Creation”

by Mr. Kimihiko Takamatsu, Senior Investment Manager,
Resona Asset Management Co., Ltd.

13:35: “Investor Stewardship: From Ownership to Long-Term Value Creation”

by Mr. Govinda Finn, Ph.D.,
Sumitomo-Mitsui Trust Asset Management Co., Ltd.

14:05: “Challenges in ESG Implementation”

by Mr. Seiichiro Takahashi, Director and Chief Investment Officer,
Aozora Investment Management, Co., Ltd.

14:35~14:45: Break

14:50: “Reimagining ESG Investing”

by Mr. Yasunori Iwanaga, Ph.D., Managing Director, Chief Responsible Investment Officer
Amundi Japan

15:20: “Big Tech’s Playbook for Responsible AI”

by Mr. Eric Jung, Product Lead,
Amazon, Japan

16:00: Panel discussion

Moderator: Prof. Yukihiro Nishimura,
Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University

Panelist: Mr. Eric Jung,
Mr. Govinda Finn
Mr. Seiichiro Takahashi
Mr. Yasunori Iwanaga
Mr. Kimihiko Takamatsu

16:40: Q&A sessions

17:10: Closing remarks: Professor Katsuhiko Kokubu,
Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University

17:15~19:00: Networking reception (TBA)

Intended Participants:

Professors of Kobe University and MBA students, Graduate Students and KIMAP students. It is also open to the general public.

Limit on participation: 100

How to register for this symposium :

Please apply from the two-dimensional code or the URL below by Friday, November 7, 2026

(URL) <https://forms.gle/SKzJ3LNcTZVuAREf7>

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