

**Panel/Side Concept Note**  
**Business and Human Rights: Corporate Japan Rises to the Challenge**

**Name of organisers:**

- Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO
- UN Global Compact Network Japan
- EY Japan, Climate Change and Sustainability Services

**Aim and objectives:**

Japanese companies with deep historical roots have long counted socialization and mutually beneficial relationships among their management values. They grew together with their suppliers even if they had no capital ties, treating them as part of their business group while regularly sharing their technology and vision for management and policy. Japanese companies are now taking the first steps towards reframing these quiet achievements in the context of the business and human rights discourse, as well as identifying gaps between practices in the traditional corporate ecosystem and universal human rights responsibilities.

IDE-JETRO, a Japanese quasi-governmental research institute, is conducting a baseline study on Japanese corporations and challenges ahead in Asian countries, in order to propose policy measures to the government in light of UNGPs. Following the Leaders' Declaration at the recent Elmau G7 summit which called for efforts by governments to set up National Action Plans in line with the UNGPs, Japan is expected to play an active role in this space.

With the 2020 Olympics bringing the eyes of the world to Japan and its companies, this session will take stock of Japanese efforts to implement the Guiding Principles. It will also serve as a launch event for the UN Global Compact Local Network Japan/EY Japan joint publication, "*Business and Human Rights – Corporate Japan Rises to the challenge*", which includes case studies from selected practices of leading Japanese companies.

**Target audience**

- Corporate representatives of Asian states, academics and NGOs.
- All stakeholders interested in best practice examples from Japan, as well as of the marriage of traditional Asian management strengths and universal values such as human rights.

**Speakers**

- **Ms Akane Odake, LIXIL**
- **Ms Akiko Ueno, UN Global Compact Network Japan**
- **Mr Saul Takahashi, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre Japan**
- **Mr Hiroshi Sato, Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO**
- **Moderation: Ms Ashleigh Owens, EY Japan Climate Change and Sustainability Services**

