

## Roundtable #20: “Driving diversity and paving a path for women in Japan” with Kaori Sasaki

The Japan Times Cube Inc. (representative director: Minako Suematsu) launched Roundtable by The Japan Times, a series of talk events broadcasted in Japan.

The English-language events invites readers of The Japan Times to be guest speakers. Ross Rowbury, a Senior Managing Director at Nomura Holdings, who has a deep knowledge of Japan and boasts a wide network both domestically and abroad, sits down in the role of host with Japanese and non-Japanese to discuss their lives in Japan. The Roundtable is held once a month.

For our special speaker, Mr. Rowbury will welcome Kaori Sasaki, a well-known diversity expert, entrepreneur and a role model who has paved the path for women in Japan.

### <Overview>

**Date and time:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
15:30 to 16:30 JST: Talk session

**Registration at:** <https://peatix.com/event/3255901/>

**Participants: This event is a recording and not a livestream.** A notification will be sent to participants when the recording is posted online.

**Registration fee:** Free

The contents of Roundtable by The Japan Times will be published as an archive at a later date and will be introduced in the main paper of The Japan Times and the website of Sustainable Japan by The Japan Times. Roundtable is held in cooperation with Nomura Holdings.

### Kaori Sasaki

Kaori Sasaki is a well-known diversity expert who invented the Diversity Index, produces, and chairs the largest diversity conference in Asia, ICWB, with over 1000 participants each year for over 30 years. She is a well-known entrepreneur and a role model who has paved the path for women in Japan.

Through her work as a diversity expert to companies throughout Japan, she saw the need for a system to measure and reward companies for their diversity efforts. In 2018, she inaugurated the “Diversity Index”, which measures the diversity of an organization against its corporate performance and provides training.



Long known as an internet pioneer, Ms. Sasaki opened the first portal for women in Japan in 1996 and in 2000, she founded ewoman, Inc., a diversity consultancy that provides marketing, branding, product development, and training to major corporations. In 1987, She established UNICUL International, Inc., a communications consultancy that offers executive media training and translation and interpretation in seventy languages.

Ms. Sasaki has served on numerous high-level councils for the Ministries of Health, Labor and Welfare, Education, Law, Economy, Trade and Industry, and Information and Technology. Furthermore, she served on the Regulatory Reform Council of the Cabinet Office to which she was

appointed by then, Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. She served as a Member of the W20 Steering Committee and on the board of directors of major listed corporations for many years including NEC Corporation, Tokyo Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., and Nissen Holdings. She was also on the advisory boards of Panasonic Corporation, Toshiba Corporation, ITOCHU Corporation, DaimlerChrysler, NIFTY Corporation and other major companies.

## Ross Rowbury

Ross Rowbury is a Senior Managing Director and Co-Head of Group Corporate Communications at Nomura Holdings. He has observed Japan while living and working here for four decades. Commencing his career in finance in Tokyo during the early 1980s, he later moved into public relations and communications, holding senior positions at Gavin Anderson & Co. (now Kreab) and PRAP Japan. He headed the Edelman business in Japan for 10 years until July 2020. Prior to joining Nomura in October, he was a freelance consultant to a number of firms on their Japan business strategy. He is also a visiting professor of Asian marketing at Doshisha University in Kyoto and is on the Board of TELL, a suicide prevention and mental health NPO.



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### ▪ The Japan Times

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