Strategic Approaches to Strengthening Supply Chains: Enhancing Competitiveness through Regional Collaboration and Circular Economy

MRI International Workshop

登壇者プロフィール / Speaker biography

Wen-Yu Weng

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■ Wen-Yu Weng is Executive Lead for Critical Minerals at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a globally recognised non-profit accelerating the transition to a circular economy. She leads the Foundation's work on catalysing and scaling breakthrough circular solutions for critical minerals essential to the energy transition and digital transformation — with a focus on batteries, cleantech, low-carbon mobility, consumer electronics, and digital infrastructure.

Wen-Yu has worked globally across energy, resources, and sustainability, advising industries, investors, and governments to drive systems-level change, innovative finance, and robust market design. She has previously served as a sought-after strategic adviser to leading energy companies, utilities, and infrastructure investors.

She is also a trustee of Earthwatch Europe and Groundwork London, two charities tackling urgent environmental and socio-economic challenges.

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■ Fusanori Iwasaki is a Research Fellow at the Research Department of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). His research interests are in the fields of Political Science and International Relations as well as International Business studies. He is currently involved in several ERIA research projects, including the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) of ERIA since its inception.　Prior to his current position, he was a Director for Policy Research at the Office of the President of ERIA, and a Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (DC1). He holds a master's degree from the Legal and Political Studies Program at the Graduate School of Law at Kyoto University, Japan, where he specialises in International Relations.

Witchuda Daud



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■ Dr. Witchuda Daud is a Senior Researcher in the Advanced Polymer Research Group at the National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), part of Thailand's National Science and Technology Development Agency. She leads initiatives on advancing circular economy solutions for plastics and packaging, focusing on circularity performance, polymer innovation, and sustainable materials management. Her work spans critical projects on plastic waste reduction, e-waste, and hazardous chemical management, in collaboration with international organizations such as UNIDO and CSIRO.

With extensive experience in polymer composites, packaging design, and technology transfer, Witchuda has advised industries, governments, and standard-setting bodies — contributing to ISO circular economy standards and national policy frameworks. She also designs and delivers training on Design for Circular Economy in partnership with global academic institutions.

高橋幸二　/　TAKAHASHI Koji



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■ Mr. Koji TAKAHASHI is Director for International Resource Circulation, Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Division, GX Policy Group, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), JAPAN.　Since 1994, he has a wide variety of careers for a long time in international affairs such as development of bilateral economic relationship with the US, China, and the Middle East countries, trade issues in steel sector, and international cooperation in the specific areas such as climate change, energy, and SMEs Since December 2024 to present, he has tackled with negotiation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment, domestic implementation of Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and other international affairs in circular economy policy.

古木二郎　/　FURUKI Jiro



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■ Mr. Jiro FURUKI is a Researcher at the Policy and Economy Center of Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. Since joining the institute in 1994, he has been engaged primarily in research and consulting related to waste management, resource circulation, and biomass utilization. Currently, he is focused on developing policy recommendations aimed at addressing societal challenges, with a particular emphasis on the transition to a circular economy.

野本哲也　/　NOMOTO Tetsuya



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■ Tetsuya has been responsible for supporting business development in the energy transition and carbon neutrality sectors. From April 2023 to March 2024, he was seconded to the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), where he was actively involved in initiatives related to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), carbon pricing, and carbon markets. During this time, he contributed to raising awareness and developing regional strategies for carbon neutrality.

Upon returning to Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI), Tetsuya took on the role of leading research and providing policy recommendations in the fields of energy and circular economy.

He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Studies with a specialization in Environmental Systems from the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo.