



Monthly Newsletter: October Edition

*This newsletter aims to share the latest updates from
Tokyo as a global financial hub and FinCity.Tokyo*

Updates from Tokyo – Global Financial Hub

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- **Top PE executives describe Japan as “the next big opportunity”** – On September 23, Former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida participated in a panel discussion with leading asset managers at an event hosted by Bloomberg (Japan’s Financial Future | Elevating Asset Management) in NY, where he appealed for [bold investments in Japan](#), quoting the famous Star Trek line, “To boldly go where no one has gone before” in order to promote Japan as an asset management nation and to continue this policy even after stepping down as Prime Minister.
During the panel, KKR Co-Chief Executive Officer Joe Bae stated that “Japan is a must-own country today for investors,” and that continued market reforms will keep investors committed towards the Japanese market in the long run. Jon Gray, COO of Blackstone, commented that the asset management nation plan and corporate reforms are “a home run, just like how the Dodgers have benefited from Japan”.
- **Prime Minister Ishiba to “inherit the growth strategy” accelerating the flow of capital from savings to investment** – On October 1, Prime Minister Ishiba stated at a press conference, “We will steadily take over the growth strategy pursued by the Kishida administration” and “develop the policy of an asset management-oriented country”. He also emphasized his intention to realize Japan as an investment powerhouse by shifting from a conventional cost-cutting economy to a high value-added creation economy. He further stated, “We will work to further accelerate shifts from saving to investing”.
- **Prime Minister Ishiba calls on foreign investors and others to invest during the Asset Management Forum** – On October 3, Prime Minister Ishiba expressed his view during the first annual Asset Management Forum that he is seeking professional investment partners and that close communication with financial institution officials is important in order to build Japan into an investment powerhouse. He highlighted that the Japanese government will ensure that investment funds are not limited to specific investors/corporate sectors, but will invest in the whole economy where returns eventually make their way to individual households. He also stated that the government is aiming to achieve wage increases and investment by long term stable asset formation of households, through a wide range of corporate governance and management reforms.
- **Streamlined process will reduce amount of time needed for foreign companies to open corporate bank accounts in Japan** - To enable overseas investment funds and asset management companies to smoothly open deposit accounts when they enter the Japanese market, Tokyo, Hokkaido, and Osaka Prefecture, which are all “Special Zones for Financial and Asset Management Businesses”, will enable information sharing with

banks. By the end of this fiscal year, major banks will prepare a system to shorten the amount of time needed to open a bank account. Traditionally, consultation services by local governments for foreign companies have been limited to general advice. By utilizing the “Special Zones” system, local governments will be able to share information directly with banks, making it easier to provide more concrete support to foreign companies. This could shorten the time it normally takes to complete the procedure to open a new bank account from a month or more to about a week.

- **Japan to allow overseas banks without branches in the country to participate in syndicated loans** - In order to help businesses access capital to make investments abroad, Japan will ease restrictions on cofinancing by overseas banks and allow them to participate in syndicated loans that use foreign currencies. The law currently requires overseas lenders to have a physical office in Japan or a Japanese banking license, but the Financial Services Agency (FSA) plans to revise the rules for syndicated loans to permit participation by overseas banks on a case-by-case basis.
- **The Nikkei: International financial frontier and bringing Japan to the next phase** – On the 8th of October, the Nikkei hosted the “[International Financial Frontier](#)” event that highlighted the current financial trends within the Japanese market, as well as the current challenges the market is facing. Hiromi Yamaji, CEO of Japan Exchange Group (JPX), emphasized that Japanese listed companies should continue disclosing their long-term business plans to ensure a solid interaction between the company and investors. He also highlighted that currently there are still many companies with high potential in Japan that are not well known globally. Keiichi Aritomo, Executive Director of FinCity.Tokyo, also joined as a panelist with Satoshi Ikeda, Chief Sustainable Finance Officer of Financial Service Agency, and Shoichi Okoshi, President of JPMorgan Asset Management, where they discussed the Japanese government’s financial strategy.

FinCity.Tokyo updates

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- **Online Media roundtable on sustainable finance in Japan** – FinCity.Tokyo held its second media roundtable on September 26th, under the theme “Sustainable Finance in Japan: Accelerating the Green Transformation”. During this media roundtable, Satoshi Ikeda (Chief Sustainable Finance Officer, Financial Services Agency, Government of Japan) and Emi Onozuka (President and CEO, Eminent Group) provided an in-depth discussion of the current situation of sustainable finance in Japan as well as the global trends and challenges regarding sustainable finance. Other discussion topics included how public and private sectors are addressing these trends in Japan. After the discussion, Ikeda and Onozuka participated into a lively Q&A session with viewers.
- **Tokyo Sustainable Finance Forum** – On October 4th, Fincity.Tokyo organized the Tokyo Sustainable Finance Forum, an event dedicated to addressing subjects pertaining to global trends and the outlook for sustainable finance. The hybrid event took place both in-person and online. During this event, many professionals from the financial industry working in the public and private sectors held a lively discussion on the current situation and prospects for sustainable finance as well as the role of international financial cities in international cooperation.
- **FinCity.Tokyo Chairman Hiroshi Nakaso gives speech at MUFG Sustainable Investment Symposium** - On October 4, FinCity.Tokyo Chairman Hiroshi Nakaso gave a speech on the role of Japan as an international financial center in supporting sustainable investment in Asia at MUFG’s Sustainable Investment Symposium, a

“Japan Weeks” event. The full speech is published online [here](#) (Japanese only).

ABOUT FINCITY.TOKYO

FinCity.Tokyo is dedicated to raising Tokyo’s profile as a global financial hub, with a focus on building a world-leading ecosystem for asset management and fintech. We work with the Government of Japan and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, as well as 57 industry associations, major financial institutions, global investors, and service providers. You can find more information on [our homepage](#).

Media Inquiries:

Kekst CNC: FinCity.Tokyo@kekstcnc.com

If you have any questions or interview/briefing requests, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also welcome any requests for comments or quotes.

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