Media Roundtable Invitation

Close-up: Tokyo's fast-growing digital finance ecosystem and the untapped opportunities for Singaporean and ASEAN innovators.

16 November 2026, 9:30am to 12:00pm, Pan Pacific Singapore 7 Raffles Blvd, Ocean 6, Level 2, Singapore 039595

Japan's fast-tracking of a digital finance ecosystem around crypto assets, yen stablecoins, tokenized deposits and tokenized securities, has made the country a compelling destination for global financial institutions and fintech firms, including those from Singapore and Southeast Asia, that want to expand their business and build new collaborations.

Spurred by deep capital pools, extensive business launch support, and a regulatory sandbox enabling foreign and domestic firms to flexibly test their solutions, Japan's fintech market is forecast to grow to USD 33 billion by 2034 (IMARC Group). The Web3 economy is set to expand 20-fold to JPY2.4 trillion over the 2021-2027 period, significantly faster than the global market (A.T Kearney). Japan's three megabanks plan to issue a yen backed stablecoin by March 2027, and blockchain-driven instant, 24/7 settlement of stocks and government bonds is under consideration.

FinCity.Tokyo's media roundtable will take an in-depth look at opportunities for Singapore and ASEAN technology firms in Tokyo and why this is the moment to look East to an untapped market. The discussion will cover Japan's latest Web3 and tokenisation developments, government incentives, including Tokyo Metropolitan Government subsidies and programs, as well as insights from a global digital asset infrastructure provider with an established presence in Japan that collaborates with local financial institutions and industry partners.

For the latest insights, we are honored to have with us at the event:

- Katsuya Terai, Deputy Director, Crypto-Assets and Stablecoin Division, Financial Services Agency of Japan
- Mr. Koichi Kagawa, Director for Comprehensive Global Financial City Strategy, Bureau of Industrial and Labour Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- Mr Kazuki Ueda, Director, Head of the Fintech Group, Bank of Japan
- Mr Tomoya Hasebe, Executive Officer, Global Head of Digital and Innovation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)
- Mr. Tim Way, Senior Director, Global Banking, Fireblocks
- Mr. Makoto Shibata, Chief Community Officer and Head of Finolab
- Moderator: Ms. Naomi Takegoshi, Senior Relationship Manager, FinCity.Tokyo

The event is **on record**. All speakers will be available for commentary after the event. Please reply to confirm your attendance. If you would like a one-to-one interview with a particular speaker, please share your preferred interviewee and topics so we can coordinate arrangements. A light breakfast and lunch is provided. We hope we can welcome you to our event.

***

FinCity.Tokyo is dedicated to raising Tokyo's profile as a global financial hub, with 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 over 50 industry associations, major financial institutions, global investors, and service providers. See more information on our homepage and on our content hub, as well as on X, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Separately, we would also like to mention that FinCity.Tokyo will participate in iConnections 2026 at Marina Bay Sands, with a Japan session examining the impact of corporate governance reforms, policies boosting entrepreneurship, and implications for international investors. The FinCity.Tokyo booth number at iConnections SG is 164, located near the front of the stage.

Media contact and registration (Merlot Consulting, PR agency)
Please RSVP to Adella Tan at adella@merlotconsulting.com by 9 November 2026.

SPEAKERS

Katsuya Terai, Deputy Director, Crypto-Assets and Stablecoin Division, Financial Services Agency of Japan



Mr. Terai serves as Deputy Director of the Crypto-Assets and Stablecoin Division at the Financial Services Agency (JFSA) of Japan. In his current role, he is responsible for supervising crypto-asset and stablecoin businesses, as well as preparing for the implementation of Japan's new crypto-asset regulations, which are scheduled to take effect in the summer of 2027. His responsibilities also include the JFSA's engagement in discussions on global stablecoins at the Financial Stability Board.

Koichi Kagawa, Director for Comprehensive Global Financial City Strategy, Bureau of Industrial and Labour Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government



Koichi Kagawa joined Citibank as a new graduate in 1983 and subsequently spent more than 40 years with leading European and U.S. financial institutions, including ABN AMRO Bank, Bank of America and HSBC. Throughout his career, he gained extensive experience across a broad range of financial services, including foreign exchange, derivatives, lending, payments and project finance, as well as finance and accounting and risk management. He held senior leadership positions, including CxO roles and country representative positions in Japan, with responsibility for corporate management, governance and compliance. He earned an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley in 1995. He joined the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in April 2026 and is currently responsible for foreign business attraction and business environment enhancement initiatives.

FinCity.Tokyo is dedicated to raising Tokyo's profile as a global financial hub, with 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 over 50 industry associations, major financial institutions, global investors, and service providers. See more information on our homepage and on our content hub, as well as on X, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Kazuki Ueda, Director, Head of the Fintech Group, Bank of Japan



Kazuki Ueda joined the Bank of Japan in 2012 and currently serves as Head of the Fintech Group. During his career at the Bank, he has held several roles, including supervising U.S. and U.K. banks operating in Japan and working as an economist in several research divisions within the International Department and the Research and Statistics Department. From 2021 to 2024, he served as a Senior Financial Market Analyst at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) where he supported the work of the Financial Stability Board (FSB). He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at Hitotsubashi University, Japan.

Tomoya Hasebe, Executive Officer, Global Head of Digital and Innovation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)



Tomoya Hasebe is Executive Officer and Global Head of Digital and Innovation at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), where he focuses on innovation across AI, digital technologies and Web3. He brings 22 years of consulting experience spanning corporate strategy, digital transformation and M&A, with previous roles at A.T. Kearney, Bain & Company and Accenture. He also served as Mastercard's Senior Vice President and Japan Head of Sales before rejoining SMBC in April 2024.

Tim Way, Senior Director, Global Banking, Fireblocks



Tim Way is Senior Director, Global Banking at Fireblocks, an enterprise platform for secure digital asset custody, settlement, trading operations, and stable coin payments. His responsibilities include partnering with banks and financial institutions to equip financial institutions globally as they rewire how value is stored and moves. This includes helping institutions manage risk, unlock new revenue models, and scale with infrastructure that's secure, enterprise-ready, and built for a digital economy. Prior to Fireblocks, Tim spent over a decade at UBS, most recently serving as its APAC Digital Assets Lead, reporting into the APAC Chief Digital and Information Office (CDIO). Whilst there, he worked to scale blockchain initiatives to tokenise funds and structured products. He also led a team of over 100 to deliver US$50m of digitalisation to UBS China's Wealth Management entities. His extensive experience at UBS spanned the Asset Management, Investment Banking and Wealth Management businesses. He has also worked buy-side with a UK Hedge Fund and as a capital markets consultant at Accenture. Originally from the UK, Tim holds a Masters of Mathematics from Warwick University and a Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) Diploma. He has called Singapore home for the past decade.

FinCity.Tokyo is dedicated to raising Tokyo's profile as a global financial hub, with 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 over 50 industry associations, major financial institutions, global investors, and service providers. See more information on our homepage and on our content hub, as well as on X, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Makoto Shibata, Head of FINOLAB, Chief Community Officer, FINOLAB Inc



Mr. Shibata is currently in charge of FINOLAB community operation since 2019. FINOLAB is Japan's first and largest FinTech community and collaborative hub located in the Otemachi financial district of Tokyo. https://finolab.tokyo/aboutus/

In his former position at The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, he was leading R&D initiatives in emerging technology and online/mobile financial services as Head of Global Innovation Team. He also held positions in corporate planning, accounting, corporate finance, and retail customer services at the bank. He is one of the founders of FINOVATORS, a mentor group consisting of FinTech experts. He also became an external board member at new digital bank, UI Bank, when it acquired a banking license in 2021. For his undergraduate course, he studied Economics at the University of Tokyo, with a year at Harvard University. And for his graduate course, he studied at the University of Oxford to obtain Master of Science in Development Economics.

Moderator:

Naomi Takegoshi, Senior Relationship Manager, FinCity.Tokyo



Naomi Takegoshi has been supporting FinCity.Tokyo's endeavors to promote Tokyo as a financial hub since October 2019. She identifies and supports overseas firms expand into Tokyo and plans/manages FinCity's overseas promotional activities. Prior to this role, she worked for the UK Embassy in Tokyo for more than 20 years where she supported UK companies develop their business in Japan in a wide range of industries. In her work to promote UK financial services and fintech in Japan, she built an extensive network of contacts both in Japan and in the UK. She produced the Japanese translation of "Decoding AI in Financial Services" by Clara Durodié a London-based AI specialist.

FinCity.Tokyo is dedicated to raising Tokyo's profile as a global financial hub, with 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 over 50 industry associations, major financial institutions, global investors, and service providers. See more information on our homepage and on our content hub, as well as on X, Facebook and LinkedIn.