

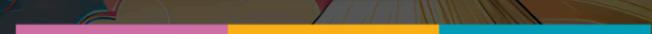
Agentic AI, Tokenization, and \$13 Trillion Capital Flow

Japan's Edge in the Global Market

エージェンティックAI、トークン化、そして13兆ドルの資本フロー
グローバル市場における日本の優位性

FORUM GUIDE & AGENDA

フォーラム案内およびアジェンダ



About GFTN Forum, Japan

GFTN Forum Japanについて

GFTN Forum, Japan is a flagship collaboration with the **Japan Financial Services Agency, Japan FinTech Week, Fincity.Tokyo, JPX, METI, Digital Agency, and the Monetary Authority of Singapore**.

Now in its fourth edition, it is the platform for policymakers, financial leaders, investors, and founders to drive FinTech innovation in Japan, across Asia, and beyond.

This year's focus: **connecting financial corridors fueling technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and capital flows**, with deep dives into **Agentic AI, Quantum Computing and Digital Assets** in the context of global economic and geopolitical shifts. The program is designed to unlock **business, investment, and partnership opportunities** across the public and private sectors.

GFTNフォーラム・ジャパンは、金融庁(Japan Financial Services Agency)、Japan FinTech Week、Fincity.Tokyo、日本取引所グループ(JPX)、経済産業省(METI)、デジタル庁、ならびにシンガポール金融管理局(Monetary Authority of Singapore)との旗艦的な連携イベントです。

第4回目を迎える本フォーラムは、政策立案者、金融業界のリーダー、投資家、そして創業者が一堂に会し、日本、アジア、さらには世界に向けてフィンテック・イノベーションを推進するためのプラットフォームです。

今年のテーマは、テクノロジー、イノベーション、起業、そして資本の流れを加速させる金融回廊の連携。グローバルな経済・地政学的变化を背景に、エージェンティックAI、量子コンピューティング、デジタル資産を深掘りします。本プログラムは、官民両セクターにおけるビジネス、投資、パートナーシップの創出を目的として設計されています。



Forum Overview

フォーラム概要

Tuesday 火曜日

24 Feb / 2月24日

Wednesday 水曜日

25 Feb / 2月25日

Thursday 木曜日

26 Feb / 2月26日

Friday 金曜日

27 Feb / 2月27日

Bellesalle Tokyo-Nihonbashi & GFTN Membership Lounge

ベルサール東京日本橋 & GFTN メンバーシップラウンジ

Japan Fintech Week Opening Ceremony

Japan Fintech Week開会式

Main Stage: Expert Dialogue

Agentic AI, Tokenization, and \$13 Trillion Capital Flow: Japan's Edge in the Global Market

メインステージ:グローバルと日本の専門家対談

エージェント型人工知能、トークナイザー、そして13兆ドルの資本流動

Founder's Peak™

ファウンダーズピーク

GFTN Insights™ [Chatham House Roundtables]

[チャタム・ハウス・ラウンドテーブル]

Expert Workshops

エクスパートワークショップ

Expert Workshops / FSA Blockchain Roundtables

エクスパートワークショップ

GFTN Global Premium Lounge / Investor Hours

GFTNグローバルプレミアムラウンジ

Fintech Expo / Investor Hours

インドフィンテックエキスポ

Innovation Tours

イノベーションツア

Workshops / 1-1 Meetings / Speaker Lounge / VIP & Exec Lounge /

Official Side Events

ワークショップ / 1対1ミーティング / スピーカー・VIPエグゼクティブラウンジ / 公式サイドイベント

GFTN VIP Reception

GFTN VIPレセプション

Tokyo Rooftop Night

東京ルーフトップナイト

Izakaya Night

居酒屋ナイト

The Founders ROCK

ファウンダーズロック

International Delegations, Embassy Receptions and Community Partner Events

国際代表団・大使館レセプション・地域パートナーアイベント



GFTN Forum, Japan 2025 in Numbers

数字で見るGFTNフォーラム・ジャパン



GFTN Forum, Japan 2026 Theme

Agentic AI, Tokenization, and \$13 Trillion Capital Flow: Japan's Edge in the Global Market

エージェンティックAI、トークン化、そして13兆ドルの資本フロー

— グローバル市場における日本の優位性 —

JAPAN'S DIGITAL ASSET MANDATE
日本のデジタル資産推進

Stablecoins, Tokenization, and Regulated Markets

ステーブルコイン、
トークナイゼーション
および規制市場

- Yen Stablecoin: Backbone of Stablecoin Ecosystem
- Tokenized Financial Instruments: Building Blocks for Next Gen Finance
- Japan View: Regulated Tokenized Financial Market
- 円ステーブルコイン：ステーブルコイン・エコシステムの基盤
- トークン化された金融商品：次世代金融の基盤
- 日本視点：規制されたトークン化金融市場

JAPAN'S AGENTIC ECONOMY
日本のエージェント経済

Payments, Banking, Insurance and Capital Markets

決済、銀行、保険および資本市場

- Agentic AI in Action: A Practitioner View (Payments, Banking, Insurance & Capital Markets)
- Agentic AI Payments: Payments Reimagined
- Quantum Conundrum: An Urgent Change to Encryption Standards
- エージェント型AIの実践：実務者の視点（決済・銀行・保険・資本市場）
- エージェント型AI決済：決済の再構築
- 量子暗号の難題：暗号化標準の緊急変更

JAPAN'S \$13 TRILLION FLOW
日本の13兆ドルの資本フロー

Capital Reimagined

資本市場の再構築

- Where is the \$13 Trillion Flow: Investigative Analysis
- Mobilizing Domestic and Regional Capital: NISA and Beyond
- AI in Asset Management: Productivity and Predictability
- 13兆ドルの資金はどこへ流れるのか：調査分析
- 国内・地域資本の動員：NISAとその後
- 資産運用におけるAI：生産性と予測可能性

Past Attending Organisations

過去の参加組織

Financial Industry

金融業界

A&N Legal Solutions LLP	Divine Solutions Japan Co., Ltd.	Money Forward
A16Z	DigiAlly	Moneytree KK
Abeam Consulting	Ebury	MUFG Bank Ltd.
Aetos VP International Pte Ltd	Ekimetrics	N.Avenue Inc (CoinDesk JAPAN)
Afore Capital	Endeavor	Nucleus Software Exports Limited
Akiyama Trading Co. Ltd.	Euroclear	NUS Asian Institute of Digital
Alipay	EY	Finance
Amundi Japan, Ltd.	FIS	Nomura
Ant International	Fireblocks	Nuvei
APIX	Fin Capital	OCBC Bank
Arthur D. Little	Fynspace LLC	OSL
Axiom Corp sp. z o.o.	Global Impact Fintech (GIFT)	PayPay
Axioma	Global TFS	Pegatron Venture Capital
Azeeza Technologies	Hellenic Capital Market Commission	Prism Microsystems
Bank of America	Hitachi	QWID Blockchain Labs
Bank for International Settlements (BIS)	Hitonomori Co., Ltd.	Qatar Investment Authority
Bank of France	Hyperithm	Redrobot
Bank of Japan	IBM	Ripple
Bank of Thailand	iCapital	Roku
Banking Circle	InfluenceMap	S&P Global Ratings
Binance	Instapay Technologies Sdn Bhd	Saison International
Bloomberg	Integral Development Corp.	SBI Holdings
Block, Inc.	Intertran Technology	SettleMint
Bytedance	JCB	Silicon Valley Ventures
Capgemini	J.P. Morgan	Smartpay
CapitaWise Ltd	JPX	Standard Chartered
Cedar Room Capital Limited	Kadan Capital	State Street
Chubb Japan	Kaleido	Swift
CitiGroup	Kaiko	Tatra banka a.s.
Circle	KPMG	Techstars
Coinbase	KX	Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire
Coinestate	Lyodsssoft	Insurance
CoinPost	LYODSTECH K.K.	Trust Stamp
Crypto.com	Mastercard	Visa
DataLens	Maybank	VMware K.K.
Dai-ichi Life Group	Mizuho Financial Group	Wells Fargo
Digital Economy Council of Australia	Microsoft Japan	XTransfer
Digital Wallet Corporation	Monex Climate Impact	Xapo Bank
		Zodia Custody

Financial Authorities, Multilaterals, Academia and Associations

金融当局、多国間機関、学術機関および業界団体

- Accounting and Auditing Regulator
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
- African Development Bank (AFDB)
- Africa Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)
- American Chamber of Commerce Japan (ACCJ)
- Asosiasi Blockchain Indonesia
- Australian National University
- Australian Securities and Investments Commission
- Autorité des Marchés Financiers
- BIS Innovation Hub
- Cabinet Office
- CFA Society Japan
- CIMB Bank Berhad
- Central Bank of Ireland
- City of Nagoya Prefecture
- Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance
- Cambridge Judge Business School
- Capital Market Authority
- Comision del Mercado de Valores
- Conference Board
- Consulate General of Switzerland
- Consulting, World Bank
- Digital Agency
- Digital Wallet Corporation
- Deloitte Tohmatsu
- Ebury Australia
- Embassy of Switzerland
- Emerging Payments Association Asia
- European Central Bank (ECB)
- European Commission
- European Investment Bank
- Federal Ministry of Finance, Abuja
- Federal Reserve Board
- Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)
- Financial Services Agency, Japan
- Financial Stability Board
- FinCity.Tokyo
- Finfra
- FINOLAB
- FinTech Association of Malaysia
- Global Blockchain Business Council
- Global Counsel
- Global Digital Finance
- Hellenic Capital Market Commission
- Institute for Financial Literacy
- Institute of International Finance (IIF)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Fintech Business Limited (IFB)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)
- JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization)
- Japan Association of New Economy
- Japan Financial Services Agency (JFSA)
- Japan Security Token Association
- Japanese Ministry of Finance
- Keio University
- MALTA Financial Services Authority
- Ministry of Finance, Japan
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia
- Ministry of Justice
- Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)
- Monetary Authority of Thailand
- National Bank of Georgia
- National Bank of Indonesia
- National Payment Corporation
- Nippon Foundation
- OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)
- Osaka Prefectural Government
- Partisia
- PwC Strategy & Consulting Co. Ltd
- Qatar Investment Authority
- Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- Securities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia
- Shizen Capital
- Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB)
- SFC (Securities and Futures Commission)
- Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA)
- Swiss Embassy in Japan
- The Center for Financial Industry Information Systems
- The Economist
- The Financial Club
- The University of Tokyo Edge Capital Partners
- The World Bank
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency
- U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- U.S. Treasury
- Waseda University
- World Economic Forum

2026 Featured Speakers



Candace Kelly
Chief Legal & Policy Officer, Stellar Development Foundation



Chan Yam Ki
Vice President, Asia Pacific, Circle



Fernando Vázquez
President of Capital Markets, Chainlink



Fiona Murray
Vice President & Managing Director, APAC, Ripple



Jesper Koll
Global Ambassador, Monex Group, Inc.



Kenneth Gay
Chief FinTech Officer, Monetary Authority of Singapore



Kyoko Altman
Chair of the Board of Directors, InfluenceMap



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



Noritaka Okabe
Chief Executive Officer, JPYC



Philip Weiner
Chief Executive Officer, APAC, bolttech



Prajit Nanu
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Nium



Ravi Menon
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN); Ambassador (Climate Action), Singapore & Former Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore



Richard Teng
Co-Chief Executive Officer, Binance



Sumnesh Joshi
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Communications Government of India

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Main Stage: Experts Dialogue

<p>Wed, Feb 25 9:00am - 9:05am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2</p>	<h3>Welcome to GFTN Forum 2026</h3> <p>This opening session sets the stage for the days ahead, highlighting the key opportunities within the Japan-Global corridor and the new capital flows defining 2026. It's a quick, high-energy introduction to the forum's themes, giving you a clear roadmap of the must-see sessions and the influential leaders joining us. Join us as we begin three days of building the partnerships and ideas that will shape the future of finance.</p> <p>Moderator: Kyoko Altman, Chair of the Board of Directors, InfluenceMap</p>
<p>Wed, Feb 25 9:05am - 9:25am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2</p>	<h3>Cultural Performance - Noh</h3> <p>Immerse yourself in a moment of focus and artistry to start your day with a handpicked Japanese cultural performance. This opening showcase brings the spirit of "Omotenashi" to life, blending traditional precision with creative energy to set the tone for the discussions ahead. It's a chance to experience Japan's rich heritage firsthand before we dive into the day's sessions on innovation and investment.</p>
<p>Wed, Feb 25 9:45am - 10:00am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2</p>	<h3>Opening Address by Ravi Menon, Chairman of GFTN</h3> <p>In this opening address, Ravi Menon, Chairman of the Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN), sets the strategic stage for the forum by outlining the essential pillars of a modern, interconnected financial ecosystem. As global markets face a transformative shift driven by tokenization, artificial intelligence, and digital public infrastructure, this session explores the critical role of international cooperation in building trust and interoperability. Chairman Menon will share GFTN's vision for fostering an environment where technology enhances financial inclusion and efficiency while maintaining systemic stability. This keynote provides a foundational roadmap for the discussions to follow, emphasizing the synergy between Japan's financial leadership and the global push toward a more seamless, secure, and innovation-ready global economy.</p> <p>Speaker: Ravi Menon, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN); Ambassador (Climate Action), Singapore & Former Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)</p>
<p>Wed, Feb 25 11:20am - 11:50am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2</p>	<h3>Panel: The Digital Assets Roadmap - TradFi, Banking, Stablecoin and the Ecosystem</h3> <p>Chart the strategic roadmap for traditional financial institutions (TradFi) entering Japan's regulated digital asset space. This session focuses on the practical steps banks must take to integrate stablecoins, manage tokenized assets, and offer custody services while ensuring regulatory compliance. We will discuss key decisions around technology stack, risk management, and the crucial partnerships needed to bridge the gap between legacy systems and distributed ledger technology.</p>

Wed, Feb 25
11:50am - 12:10pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: Real-Time, Cross-Border, Digital – State of Global Payments

Explore how the evolution of payments is reshaping the way people and businesses move money in Japan and across borders, from everyday consumer experiences to platform-driven financial services. This session connects global shifts in real-time payments, digital wallets, and embedded finance with Japan's distinctive journey from cash-heavy habits and cards to app-based, cross-border, and multi-currency solutions. The discussion highlights rising user expectations, the role of global players adapting to Japan's unique culture and regulations, and how partnerships between fintechs and incumbents can unlock new value in remittances, travel spend, and digital commerce, giving attendees clear insight into where Japanese payments are heading next, how global best practices are being localized, and what this means for product strategy, customer experience, and competitive positioning in a digital-first world.

Moderator:

Sopnendu Mohanty, Group Chief Executive Officer, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Wed, Feb 25
12:10pm - 12:40pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: How Cross Border Payments Evolving in Japan and Worldwide

Explore how the evolution of payments is reshaping the way people and businesses move money in Japan and across borders, from everyday consumer experiences to platform-driven financial services. This session connects global shifts in payments, digital wallets, and embedded finance with Japan's distinctive journey from cash-heavy habits and cards to app-based, cross-border, and multi-currency solutions. The discussion highlights rising user expectations, the role of global players adapting to Japan's unique culture and regulations, and how partnerships between fintechs and incumbents can unlock new value in remittances, travel spend, and digital commerce, giving attendees clear insight into where Japanese payments are heading next, how global best practices are being localized, and what this means for product strategy, customer experience, and competitive positioning in a digital-first world.

Speakers:

Jo Yeo, Director & Head, Payments Development & Data Connectivity Office, Monetary Authority of Singapore
Prajit Nanu, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Nium

Moderator:

Pat Patel, Chief Executive Officer, MEA, USA, LATAM & Forums, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Wed, Feb 25
1:30pm - 1:35pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Welcome to GFTN Forum 2026 Day 1 (Afternoon Session)

After a morning of high-level overviews, the afternoon is all about diving deeper into the specific tech and investment trends moving the needle in 2026. This brief opening will guide you through the upcoming breakout sessions and workshops, ensuring you know exactly where the most relevant conversations for your goals are happening. It's the perfect way to refocus and get ready for a productive second half of the day.

Moderator:

Kyoko Altman, Chair of the Board of Directors, InfluenceMap

Wed, Feb 25
1:35pm - 2:15pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: The New Era of Financial Services: Integrating AI and Digital Innovation in Banking and Insurance Ecosystems

Examine the seismic shift occurring across the financial landscape as Artificial Intelligence and digital-first strategies redefine traditional business models. This session focuses on the divergent yet intersecting paths of digital transformation within retail banking, institutional finance, and the insurance sector. The conversation centers on how legacy institutions are leveraging AI for advanced risk underwriting, hyper-personalized customer journeys, and operational efficiency. It is an essential deep dive for leaders looking to understand the technical and cultural shifts required to thrive in an increasingly automated and data-driven financial ecosystem.

Wed, Feb 25
2:15pm - 2:55pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: Accountability in the Age of Autonomy: Regulators on the Future of Agentic Financial Systems

Delve into the complex legal and ethical frameworks being built to oversee the rise of autonomous financial agents. This session focuses on how global regulators are moving beyond static AI guidelines to address the unique challenges of "agentic" systems that can execute transactions and make decisions independently. The conversation centers on the balance between fostering algorithmic innovation and ensuring human accountability, systemic stability, and consumer protection. It is a critical briefing for those looking to understand the emerging compliance landscape for the next generation of autonomous digital finance.

Speakers:

Colin Payne, Head of Innovation, Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

Kenneth Gay, Chief FinTech Officer, Monetary Authority of Singapore

Moderator:

Jaskaran Bhalla, Head of Content, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Wed, Feb 25
2:55pm - 3:35pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: The Future of Transactional Value - Dialogue on Innovation in Payments

Analyze the fundamental restructuring of global payment systems digital money moves from experimental phases to mainstream utility. This session focuses on the practical application of programmable money in automating complex commercial transactions and enhancing cross-border liquidity. The conversation centers on the interoperability between different digital asset forms and the infrastructure required to ensure secure, real-time settlement at scale. It is a vital deep dive for participants looking to understand how the convergence of these technologies will drive efficiency and innovation in the global payments landscape.

Moderator:

Pieter Franken, Guest Professor and Senior Researcher, Keio University & Co-founder, Safecast

Wed, Feb 25
4:15pm - 4:55pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: AML/KYC in DeFi: Compliance Without Centralization

The challenge of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know-Your-Customer (KYC) compliance in decentralized finance (DeFi) requires novel solutions. This session explores how to achieve regulatory adherence without compromising the core principles of decentralization. Discussion will cover verifiable credentials, on-chain analytics, and privacy-enhancing technologies designed to satisfy Japanese AML/KYC mandates within non-custodial and autonomous financial protocols.

Wed, Feb 25
4:55pm - 5:35pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: Tokenization: FIs as Institutional Gatekeepers the Japan View (in Japanese)

Explore the role of financial institutions (FIs) as essential institutional gatekeepers in the booming tokenization market. This session delves into the custody, compliance, and technological standards FIs must uphold to safely fractionalize and distribute real-world assets. We will analyze how FIs can leverage their existing trust and infrastructure to ensure market integrity, investor protection, and robust KYC/AML compliance for tokenized assets.

Moderator:

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

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Side Events

Wed, Feb 25
6:15pm - 8:15pm

External Location

Tokyo Rooftop Night

Enjoy a spectacular evening overlooking the city skyline at our Tokyo Rooftop Night, hosted in partnership with FINOLAB. This is your chance to unwind after a day of deep dives and discover why Kayabacho is the beating heart of Japan's fintech scene. Grab a drink, take in the views, and join the innovators and founders who are redefining the local ecosystem. It's a high-energy, open-air setting designed for the casual conversations and new perspectives that only happen when the workday is done.

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Main Stage: Experts Dialogue

Thu, Feb 26 9:00am - 9:05am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2	<h3>Welcome to GFTN Forum 2026 Day 2 (Morning Session)</h3> <p>Day 2 builds on Day 1's momentum, this morning's welcome centers on the "Japan-Global Corridor," shifting our focus toward the concrete cross-border partnerships and regional growth stories emerging in 2026. We'll give you a quick preview of the morning's key panels and fireside chats so you can dive straight back into the conversations that matter most to your business and investment goals.</p> <p>Moderator: Kyoko Altman, Chair of the Board of Directors, InfluenceMap</p>
Thu, Feb 26 9:05am - 9:20am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2	<h3>Musical Performance</h3> <p>Immerse yourself in a moment of focus and artistry to start your day with a handpicked Japanese cultural performance. This opening showcase brings the spirit of "Omotenashi" to life, blending traditional precision with creative energy to set the tone for the discussions ahead. It's a chance to experience Japan's rich heritage firsthand before we dive into the day's sessions on innovation and investment.</p>
Thu, Feb 26 9:20am - 9:35am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2	<h3>Opening Address: Leading the Shift: Neil Parekh on SMBC's Roadmap for Financial Integration Across Asia-Pacific</h3> <p>Gain exclusive insight into the strategic evolution of one of the world's largest financial institutions as Neil Parekh outlines SMBC's vision for the Asia-Pacific region. This session focuses on the intersection of traditional banking excellence and the rapid adoption of digital finance, exploring how SMBC is positioning itself as a bridge for capital and innovation across the APAC corridor. The remarks center on the role of cross-border partnerships, the integration of emerging technologies, and the commitment to driving sustainable economic growth in a digital-first world. It is a foundational address for anyone looking to align their growth strategy with the shifting dynamics of the regional financial powerhouse.</p> <p>Speaker: Neil Parekh, Deputy Chairman, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) & Vice Chairman Asia Pacific, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)</p>
Thu, Feb 26 10:10am - 10:30am Main Stage, Bellesalle B2	<h3>Fireside Chat: Architecting JPYC: Noritaka Okabe on the Future of Digital Yen [In Japanese]</h3> <p>Trace the origin and evolution of Japan's pioneer regulated stablecoin in this candid dialogue with JPYC Founder and CEO, Noritaka Okabe. This session focuses on the regulatory breakthroughs and technical milestones required to bring the Japanese Yen into the programmable age. The conversation centers on the practical utility of JPYC within the broader Web3 ecosystem and its role in bridging traditional finance with decentralized markets. It is a must-attend session for those looking to understand the real-world mechanics of building a compliant, high-velocity digital currency in one of the world's most sophisticated financial jurisdictions.</p> <p>Moderator: Yuki Kamimoto, Chief Executive Officer, N.Avenue Inc (NADA NEWS)</p>

Thursday, 26 February 2026

GFTN Insights™

Thu, Feb 26
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Roundtable Room 2,
Bellesalle 5F, Room 3

Roundtable: The Digital Dollar in Japan: Unlocking Institutional Liquidity, Collateral, and Tokenised Trade through USD-backed Stablecoins

Following the implementation of the amended Payment Services Act1 in June 2023, Japan has established a clear regulatory pathway for the distribution of globally-issued, USD-backed stablecoins via licensed domestic intermediaries. As the global stablecoin market now exceeds \$300 billion², with USD stablecoins accounting for over 95% of total volume, Japanese and global financial institutions (FIs) are now commercially deploying USD stablecoins for institutional use.

For Japan to solidify its status as a global Web3 and tokenisation hub, the commercial integration is a strategic necessity for both leading domestic banks and global FIs.

This roundtable focuses on the commercial pathways for institutions looking to integrate USD stablecoins in an era of institutional-grade digital finance. We will explore the practical integration of USD stablecoins into the Japanese market, following the regulatory clarity provided for foreign-issued assets. The discussion will highlight how these tokens serve as digital-native liquid assets, offering Japanese financial institutions and corporations a more efficient tool for institutional use cases. By evaluating the tangible benefits - from reduced settlement risk to 24/7 liquidity - we will outline how FIs can better service a modern, tokenised economy.

Speakers:

Fernando Vázquez, President of Capital Markets, Chainlink

Sulolit Raj Mukherjee, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Bodin Advisory LLC

Moderator:

Rahul Advani, Global Co-Head of Policy, Ripple

Thu, Feb 26
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Roundtable Room 1,
Bellesalle 4F, Room H+1

Roundtable: Agentic Retail Payments - When AI Agents Execute Transactions Autonomously

As Japan moves deeper into a "do it for me" style of economy, retail payments are beginning to shift from transactions initiated directly by consumers to payments executed on their behalf. Digital services are increasingly being authorised to manage recurring bills, subscriptions, travel arrangements, and everyday purchases - selecting merchants, initiating payments, and operating directly on real-time payment infrastructure.

This roundtable examines the transition from direct consumer action to delegated execution, and the implications this shift has for policy, consumer protection, and payments infrastructure. Using a realistic Japanese retail use case as its foundation, the discussion explores what changes when transactions are carried out without an explicit, real-time action by the consumer, including emerging risk profiles, new avenues for misuse, and evolving regulatory considerations.

Participants will consider the core questions that payment providers, regulators, and market operators now need to address: who is recognised as the payer when execution is delegated; how authority, limits, and revocation should be structured and enforced; where liability sits when delegated arrangements are misused or result in consumer harm; and what forms of evidence are required to support disputes, refunds, and redress. Set against the backdrop of Japan's instant payment infrastructure, the session aims to outline practical policy and market considerations for enabling delegated retail payments at scale, while maintaining trust, efficiency, and strong consumer protection.

Speaker:

Jo Yeo, Director & Head, Payments Development & Data Connectivity Office, Monetary Authority of Singapore

Moderator:

Camilla Bullock, Chief Executive Officer, Emerging Payments Association Asia

Thu, Feb 26
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Roundtable Room 3,
Bellesalle 5F, Room 8 & 9

Roundtable: Financial Institutions and Technology Providers - Risks, Benefits, and Regulatory Responses

This roundtable aims to examine the financial sector's increasing dependence on a concentrated group of technology and AI providers to identify systemic risks and operational benefits. By leveraging research from the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance (CCAF), the session will explore market concentration drivers, evaluate the trade-off between technological efficiency and ethical or operational vulnerabilities, and review global regulatory responses to Critical Third Parties (CTPs). Ultimately, the discussion intends to produce actionable lessons for regional regulators and provide foundational insights for forthcoming CCAF studies on AI governance and cross-border supervisory coordination.

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Side Events

Thu, Feb 26
6:15pm - 8:15pm

External Location

Izakaya Night at Kayabacho

Enjoy a casual wrap-up to the day with a classic Izakaya experience in the heart of Kayabacho, Tokyo's historic financial district. This is the time to let your guard down and enjoy local favorites and drinks in a lively, authentic setting. It's the perfect atmosphere for unscripted chats and late-night brainstorming with the founders and investors you met during the sessions. Come for the great food, stay for the honest conversations that only happen over a shared table.

Friday, 27 February 2026

Main Stage: Experts Dialogue

Fri, Feb 27
9:00am - 9:05am

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Welcome to GFTN Forum 2026 Day 3 - Special Edition India Japan Fintech Corridor (Morning Session)

Enjoy a deep dive into our Day 3 the India-Japan FinTech Corridor. This morning's kick-off celebrates the powerful synergy between two of Asia's largest economies, exploring how cross-border digital public infrastructure, payments, and investment are creating a new highway for innovation. We'll outline the morning's agenda, featuring the founders and policymakers who are actively bridging the gap between Tokyo and Bengaluru. It's the perfect start to a day dedicated to scaling ideas across this vital strategic corridor.

Moderator:

Kyoko Altman, Chair of the Board of Directors, InfluenceMap

Fri, Feb 27
9:05am - 9:20am

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Welcome Address by Jawed Ashraf, Co-Chair, India Japan Fintech Day

The India-Japan relationship has evolved from trade partner to strategic ally. As both nations deepen their "Special Strategic and Global Partnership," the intersection of commerce and technology becomes critical. In this opening address, the ITPO Chairman explores how trade infrastructure is being redesigned for the digital economy. Discussion will address how traditional trade promotion organizations are adapting their mandates for a world where software and data flows matter as much as physical goods. Attendees will understand the institutional architecture supporting India-Japan economic integration and identify partnership opportunities.

Fri, Feb 27
11:00am - 11:30am

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: Following the Money East to West - Mapping Capital Flows Between India and Japan

Trace the sophisticated movement of value as global investors and policy experts map the evolving financial bridge between India and Japan. As the "Japan-India Investment Corridor" matures from traditional infrastructure lending into a sophisticated high-growth ecosystem, the movement of capital between Asia's most dynamic economies is being radically reimagined. Experts will dissect the structural shift as Japanese institutional giants and sovereign funds increasingly pivot toward India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) while Indian tech leaders seek strategic exits and R&D partnerships in Japan's revitalized capital markets. The discussion will navigate the nuances of cross-border M&A, the role of bilateral currency swaps in maintaining liquidity, and the emerging "India-Japan Fund" initiatives.

Fri, Feb 27
11:30am - 12:00pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: The Invest India Story - Potential of a 10 Trillion Investment

Explore the blueprint of a nation in high gear as leaders from Invest India outline the strategic path to a \$10 trillion GDP. This session focuses on the structural shifts transforming India from a service-led economy to a global manufacturing and tech powerhouse. The conversation centers on the "winning leap" across five core themes: the \$10 trillion digital payments explosion, the \$360 billion renewable energy boom, and the rapid expansion of semiconductor and AI infrastructure. It is a definitive briefing for global investors seeking to understand the policy incentives, such as the PLI schemes, and the grassroots innovation driving the most significant wealth-creation story of the decade.

Fri, Feb 27
12:00pm - 12:30pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: Market Entry Playbook - India to Japan, Japan to India

Demystify the complexities of cross-border expansion in this tactical session focused on the "how-to" of market entry between India and Japan. This session provides a step-by-step playbook for startups and established firms looking to scale, covering essential ground from regulatory compliance and local entity structuring to cultural nuances in business negotiation. The conversation centers on real-world success stories and common pitfalls, highlighting how to leverage local partnerships to gain a foothold in Japan's sophisticated market and India's high-growth digital economy. It is an indispensable guide for any leader looking to turn the Indo-Japan corridor into a viable growth engine for their business.

Friday, 27 February 2026

Founders Day

Fri, Feb 27
1:30pm - 1:40pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Welcome to The Founders Peak™

Enjoy a front-row seat to the raw, unfiltered stories behind the world's most resilient startups. At Founders Peak™, we move beyond the polished pitch decks to hear the pivotal moments—the failures, the breakthroughs, and the personal grit—that truly define the entrepreneurial journey. These short, high-impact narratives are designed to inspire and offer a rare look at the human side of innovation. Grab a seat and get ready to see the founders you know in a completely different light.

Speakers:

Sagari White, Head of Startups & Signature Programmes, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Navin Suri, Managing Director, Financial Services, Asia-Pacific, Accenture

Fri, Feb 27
1:40pm - 1:55pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Keynote: Japan's Private Capital Moment - Follow the Money

Japan's private capital markets are undergoing a seismic shift, reaching a definitive "moment" as PE deal value surges by 30% year-on-year and M&A transactions hit a historic record in 2024. With global investors circling Japanese technology assets with unprecedented intensity, the traditional financing landscape is being fundamentally rewritten. This keynote unpacks the critical data behind these capital flows, identifying the structural drivers of the current surge and what this liquidity explosion means for the next generation of entrepreneurs. Attendees will gain a strategic roadmap for navigating fundraising and exits in the 2026 landscape, bridging the gap between Japan's revitalized domestic policy and the global appetite for high-conviction tech investments.

Fri, Feb 27
2:15pm - 2:55pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: Beyond LLMs - The Sakana Effect & Japan's AI Hardware

Why this discussion matters now:

While the world races to build the next ChatGPT, Japan is quietly playing a different game. Companies like NEC, Softbank, and the breakout success Sakana AI are building sovereign LLMs designed for the Japanese language and cultural context, rather than relying solely on OpenAI. More critically, Japan's dominance in semiconductor materials - the photoresists and precision components that are the hidden kingmakers of the AI boom - positions the country as an indispensable player in the global AI supply chain. This panel explores why Japan's AI opportunity is not in software wrappers, but in "Physical AI": the integration of artificial intelligence into robotics, materials science, and hardware where Japan has a legacy of global leadership. With an aging society creating urgent demand for AI in elder care and labor automation, Japan is not just building AI - it is building AI for survival.

What you'll walk away with:

A clear understanding that Japan's AI opportunity is fundamentally different from Silicon Valley's. Attendees will gain insight into why global funds like Khosla Ventures are suddenly backing Japanese R&D, how to leverage the J-Find visa to attract global AI researchers to Tokyo, and where the real investment opportunities lie in Japan's deep tech ecosystem. The session will provide a strategic map for founders and investors looking to capitalise on the convergence of AI, hardware, and Japan's unique demographic challenges.

Fri, Feb 27
3:20pm - 4:00pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: The New Rules of Capital - From Policy Reform to Exit

Why this discussion matters now:

Japan's startup funding environment is being reshaped from both ends. On the macro side, Bank of Japan policy shifts and the Yen Carry Trade dynamics are rippling through global capital markets, affecting foreign LP appetite for Japanese VC funds. On the micro side, the government's 5-Year Startup Development Plan is delivering real results: sweeping changes to angel tax systems, stock options reform, and the TSE's "10 billion JPY" market cap rule are accelerating a seismic shift in how startups raise and exit. M&A deals hit a record 199 transactions in 2024, and Japan's PE market now exceeds ¥3 trillion. The "IPO or bust" mentality is dead. This panel connects the dots - from policy reform to exit strategy - asking: How do founders, investors, and policymakers navigate this new landscape together?

What you'll walk away with:

A comprehensive view of Japan's evolving capital stack. Founders will gain strategies for structuring late-stage deals and navigating down rounds. Investors will understand how policy tailwinds are creating new opportunities. Policymakers will hear directly from the ecosystem on what's working and what's next. The session delivers a multi-track exit playbook and insight into the next wave of deregulation essential for cap table structuring and compliance.

Speaker:

Qin En Looi, Managing Partner, Onigiri Capital

Fri, Feb 27
4:25pm - 4:35pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

CHOOSING DIFFICULT - How Founders Take the 10% Chance

The Founders Peak Book Preview.

Why do 90% of startups fail? It's not for lack of tactics or strategy or a business model, product-market-fit or funding; it's the lack of a map for the most under-researched yet critical component of that journey: the founder's mind.

For three years, GFTN's The Founders Peak stage has carefully built that map. We've consciously gone well beyond the pitches to the deepest crevices inside the founders' mind, to gather the raw, unfiltered psychological data from over 300 founders from across 40+ countries, a cohort that includes over 30 unicorn founders, all with a combined valuation of a staggering \$130Bn.

This hence is not another playbook of fund raising pitches or how to build product. This is the first public preview of a groundbreaking book that codifies 6 predictable, psychological phases of the founder's mental journey.

You will walk away with a preview of new framework for your own mind, learn how to build mental resilience from those who have been through the fire, and understand first-hand that your struggles are not unique, they are universal.

Fri, Feb 27
4:35pm - 5:15pm

Main Stage, Bellesalle B2

Panel: AI on Trial - What Will Japan's Enterprise Buyers Actually Pay For?

Why this discussion matters now:

Japan's megabanks and financial institutions are under immense pressure to modernize, and every vendor is now pitching "AI-powered" solutions. But after years of proof-of-concepts, enterprise buyers are suffering from acute "Diligence Fatigue." They struggle to differentiate between genuinely transformative AI - solutions that can navigate Japan's unique regulatory environment, integrate with legacy core banking systems, and deliver ROI in Japanese - versus simple GPT wrappers dressed up with impressive demos. For AI startups, particularly those from India and Southeast Asia eyeing the Japan market, the bar for proving enterprise-grade value has never been higher. This session is a frank, buyer-led conversation about what Japanese financial institutions are actually willing to procure, implement, and pay for.

What you'll walk away with:

A crystal-clear understanding of the criteria that separate a successful AI sale in Japan from a failed one. Startups will learn how to refine their product and pitch for the Japanese enterprise buyer - including the importance of Japanese language capability, on-premise deployment options, and regulatory compliance. Buyers will gain a practical framework for assessing and de-risking the flood of AI solutions, while identifying the genuine innovations worth betting on.

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