

International Symposium
TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN R&D CLUSTER IN OKINAWA
Strategies for Okinawa and OIST to develop a self-sustaining regional economy

Supported by:

The Cabinet Office, Okinawa Prefecture, Onna Village, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa Industrial Promotion Public Corporation, Okinawa Technology Licensing Organization, Okinawa People's Council for Promotion of OIST, Council for Promotion of the Okinawa Genome Project

Keynote Speech

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Philip Yeo, Chairman, SPRING Singapore & Special Advisor for Economic Development, Singapore Prime Minister's Office



Mr. Philip Yeo

Mr. Philip Yeo is Special Advisor for Economic Development assisting the Singapore Prime Minister's Office in establishing new economic links with foreign governments and providing strategic inputs to establish strategic partnerships and open up opportunities with other economies. As Chairman of SPRING Singapore, Mr. Yeo guides the government development agency with the mission of enabling and growing Local Enterprises. He was Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) from 2001 to 2007 and then Senior Advisor for Science and Technology to 2009. Mr. Yeo has received numerous international awards and honorary degrees for his public service and promotion of bilateral cooperation in science and technology, including the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star from the Japanese Government in 2007 for his significant contributions to the promotion of economic relations and scientific and technological cooperation between Japan and Singapore.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Mitsuru Miyata, Chief Editor - Medical, Nikkei Business Publications, Inc.



After receiving the Master's Degree in Botany from the School of Science of the University of Tokyo in March 1979, Mr. Miyata joined Nikkei Inc. in April 1979. He has worked in the editorial department of Nikkei Medical, and was involved in launching "Nikkei Biotech" in 1981. He has become the Editor-in-Chief of Nikkei Biotech in 1985, and launched "Biotechnology Japan" in 1996. Currently, he is the Director of Healthcare Bureau, Bio Center, and Visiting Professor of the Institute for Advanced Biosciences, Keio University. He holds more than 30 positions in public agencies including, selection committee of Special Zone for Cutting-edge Medical Development (so called "Super-Tokku") of the Cabinet Office, Expert Panel on Evaluation Council for Science and Technology Policy of the Bureau of Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office, and Selection Committee of the Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. He is originally from Tokyo.

Panelist: Dr. Hiroaki Kitano, Principle Investigator of OIST, Director at Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Inc., and Member of Expert Panel of Okinawa Development Promotion Council



After receiving B.A. in physics from the International Christian University in 1984, Dr. Kitano joined the Software Engineering Laboratory of NEC Corporation. Since 1988, he has been the Visiting Researcher of the Center for Machine Translation, Carnegie Mellon University. In 1991, he received the Ph.D. in computer science from Kyoto University. Then in 1993, he joined the Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Inc., where he became Senior Researcher in 1996, Vice President in 2002, and severing as President since July 2008. He joined OIST in July 2009 as a Principal Investigator. He has received various awards including the Computers and Thought Award from the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence in 1993, Prix Ars Electronica in 2000, and Nature's 2009 Japan Mid-career Award for Creative Mentoring in Science. He is originally from Saitama, Japan.

Panelist: Dr. Sass Somekh, President, Musea Ventures, U.S.A.



After completing his Masters and Ph.D in Electrical Engineering from California Institute of Technology, Dr. Somekh began his career with Bell Labs, and then worked at Intel. In 1980, he joined Applied Materials. While in Applied Materials for 24 years, he served the post of executive vice-president and transformed it into the leading company in the semiconductor equipment industry. Then, he joined Novellus Systems as the CEO and president, and retired in Jan. 2007. He holds more than 50 U.S. patents. In recognition of his many contributions to the industry, he received the Semiconductor Equipment and Materials Institute's SEMI Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994. Currently, he has worked as the President of Musea Ventures, which invests in venture companies in new energy field. He is from Israel.

Panelist: Mr. Toshiaki Taira, Chief Operating Officer, Okinawa Industry Promotion Public Corporation, Japan



After graduating from the Department of Economics, College of Law and Letters, University of the Ryukyus, Mr. Taira joined the Okinawa prefectural government in 1976. Then, he held the posts such as the Director of Industrial Site Promotion Division, Department of Commerce, Industry & Labor; Director of Industrial Policy Division, Department of Tourism, Commerce & Industry; Deputy Director in charge of Science and Technology of Department of Planning; Deputy Director in charge of Planning and Coordination of Department of Planning. He has assumed the post of Executive Director at Okinawa Industry Promotion Public Corporation since April 2010. He worked on the compilation of the 21st Century Vision of Okinawa.

Panelist: Mr. Yoshiaki Tsukamoto, Executive Director, Bio Industry Association, Japan



After completing his Master's degree from Graduate School of Chemical Engineering, Nagoya University, Mr. Yoshiaki started working at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in 1979. He served as an assistant professor at the Center for Research Cooperation and Information Exchange in 1997 and a professor at the Frontier Collaborative Research Center in 1998. After 2001, he held the posts of Directors of Bio-Industry Division, Manufacturing Industries Bureau; Regional Technology Division, and Business Environment Promotion Division of Regional Economic and industrial Policy Group; and the Director-General of Shikoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry in METI. After retiring from METI in July 2007, he has assumed the current position.

Panelist: Ms. Julie Meier Wright, President & CEO, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, U.S.A.



San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) markets the San Diego region for investment, with a focus on San Diego's growth industries – life sciences, telecommunications, software, electronics, and defense and space – as well as makes recommendations on the public policy. Ms. Wright served as California's first Secretary of Trade and Commerce (from 1991 to 1997). In 2003, she served on gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger's Economic Recovery Council. She has assumed the current position since 1997.

(In Alphabetical Order)