

Tokyo - London Financial Innovation Seminar 2026

This seminar will unlock scaled two-way capital flows between the UK and Japan by exploring a thriving fintech ecosystem in each market and showcasing firms driving financial innovation.

Prior to the seminar, on-site attendees will have the opportunity to take part in one-on-one business meetings with pitching companies.

Date and time

Thursday, 18 June 2026

5:30 to 7:00 p.m. JST (9:30 to 11:00 a.m. BST)

* Reception opens: 4:45 p.m. (JST)

* A 30-minute networking session is scheduled after the event

Venue

Tokyo Innovation Base

2nd Floor STAGE

3-8-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Programme

How to participate

If you would like to participate, please register via the following URL or QR code.
<https://www.financialinnovationsemi.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/eng.html>



* Pre-registration required. Free of charge. (On-site registration will close once capacity is reached)

* The entire programme will be conducted in English (English-Japanese simultaneous interpretation will be provided for both on-site and online participants)

* Prior to the seminar, on-site attendees will have the opportunity to take part in one-on-one business meetings (pre-registration required; approx. 15 minutes). If you are interested in participating, please apply using the form below. Applications submitted by Thursday, June 11 will be accepted.

JST (BST)		JST (BST)	
17:30 (09:30)	Opening Remarks MATSUMOTO Akiko Vice Governor of Tokyo	18:20 (10:20)	Firm Showcase Ed GEMMAL Global Business Development Lead, Datachain, Inc. Samantha GHIOTTI Co-founder & CEO, Habitto YAMAMURA Akira Representative Director, Tractable KK General Manager, Japan and APAC, Tractable Ltd. IZAWA Yutaka Japan Representative, Sales Head North Asia, TRAYDSTREAM Japan, Inc.
17:33 (09:33)	Guest Remarks Greg GARDNER Director of Trade and Investment / Deputy Trade Commissioner North-East Asia, British Embassy Tokyo	18:50 (10:50)	Keynote Speech Alderwoman Dame Susan LANGLEY Lady Mayor of London
17:38 (09:38)	Panel Discussion Policy and industry actions to create a thriving fintech ecosystem [Moderator] YAMAOKA Hiromi Special Advisor for International Finance, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Board Member and Chief Sustainability Officer, Future Corporation) SHIMAZAKI Masao Deputy Director-General of the Strategy Development and Management Bureau, Financial Services Agency (JFSA) Damian NUSSBAUM Executive Director of Innovation and Growth, City of London Corporation Natalie Shiori FLEMING Managing Director, Fintech Association of Japan Hayley SEDGWICK COO, Innovate Finance	18:55 (10:55)	Closing Remarks KOIKE Yuriko Governor of Tokyo
		19:00 (11:00)	Networking session

Organizers



Supporters



Contact Us

Tokyo-London Financial Innovation Seminar Secretariat
E-mail: tffi-seminar2026@sec-japan.co.jp

Keynote Speech



Alderwoman Dame Susan LANGLEY
Lady Mayor of London

Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley became Lady Mayor of London 7th November 2025. She is the 697th Lord Mayor, the third woman to hold the office, and the first to be styled "Lady Mayor". Dame Susan Langley is Chair of Gallagher UK, and the Senior Independent Director for UKAR (Northern Rock Asset Management and Bradford and Bingley). Previously she was the Lead Non-Executive Director for the Home Office, a Trustee for Macmillan Cancer, CEO Financial & Professional Services at the Department for International Trade (DIT), Executive Director North America and Market Development for Lloyd's of London, Director of Lloyd's Asia and Chairman of Lloyd's Japan. Prior to this, Susan held various Insurance Board positions. She joined the Insurance Market from PriceWaterhouseCoopers where she was a Principal Consultant working with a range of FTSE 100 companies. A founding member of the Government Women's Business Council, she is a past recipient of the Insurance Institute of London (IIL) President's Award, the FS Women in the City Achievement Award, Women to Watch, Leading Women in Reinsurance and top 20 inspirational City Women. Born in the East End, she is passionate about social mobility and involved in a number of charitable and mentoring roles. In 2015 she received an OBE for services to women in business and in 2023, a DBE for public service to the financial services industry. Dame Susan graduated (BSc Hons) from Southampton University and married Gary in 2003. She is a Liveryman of the Insurers and Drapers and a Freeman of the Goldsmiths. Dame Susan is the Alderwoman for the City of London Aldgate Ward and served as Aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London 2023/2024.

Closing Remarks



KOIKE Yuriko
Governor of Tokyo

July 2024
Re-elected to a third term as Governor of Tokyo
July 2020
Re-elected to a second term as Governor of Tokyo
July 2016
Elected Governor of Tokyo
October 2011
Director, Committee on Budget, House of Representatives
September 2010
Chairperson, General Council, Liberal Democratic Party
July 2007
Minister of Defense
September 2006
Special Advisor to the Prime Minister for National Security Affairs
September 2004
Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs
September 2003
Minister of the Environment
July 1993
Member of the House of Representatives
July 1992
Member of the House of Councillors

Opening Remarks



MATSUMOTO Akiko
Vice Governor of Tokyo

Joined the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 1989. Was engaged in a wide range of fields and assigned to various workplaces over her 30-some-year career, including the Bureau of Waterworks, Bureau of Sewerage, Bureau of Industrial and Labor Affairs, Bureau of Environment, as well as secondment to a Tokyo special-ward office and a private company. Was appointed Vice Governor in October 2024 with responsibility over areas such as industrial promotion, child-related policies, sports, transportation, waterworks, and sewerage, as well as promotion of women's empowerment. She is committed to advancing metropolitan policies aimed at making Tokyo a city where women, children, workers, and everyone can thrive and shine, and ensuring Tokyo's sustainable growth and development.

Guest Remarks



Greg GARDNER
Director of Trade and Investment / Deputy Trade Commissioner North-East Asia, British Embassy Tokyo

2025 – Director of Trade and Investment, Japan / Deputy Trade Commissioner North-East Asia, Tokyo (Japan)
2023 – 2024 Japanese language training, FCDO, London (UK)
2020 – 2022 Prime Minister's Private Secretary on Foreign Affairs and Trade, No10, London (UK)
2018 – 2020 Head of Tariffs, International Trade, HM Treasury, London (UK)
2017 – 2018 India Lead, Trade Policy Group, Department for International Trade, London (UK)
2016 – 2017 Senior Manager on Public Sector Governance, Adam Smith International, London (UK)
2012 – 2016 Senior Economist, Intergovernmental Relations, National Treasury of South Africa, Pretoria (South Africa)
2011 – 2012 Master of Science (with distinction) in Political Economy of India, Balliol College, University of Oxford (UK)
2010 – 2011 Research Fellow, Seva Mandir, Udaipur (India)
2007 – 2010 Bachelor of Arts (with first class honours) in Economics and Politics, University of York (UK)

Panel Discussion -Moderator-



YAMAOKA Hiromi
Special Advisor for International Finance, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Board Member and Chief Sustainability Officer, Future Corporation)

Special Advisor for International Finance, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Board Member and Chief Sustainability Officer, Future Corporation)
Hiromi Yamaoka entered the Bank of Japan in 1986. Since then, he assumed various positions in policy fields in the Bank, including the Head of Economic Research Group in the Research and Statistics Dept., the Senior Economist in Policy Planning Office, the Head of Large-bank Surveillance in Financial Systems and Bank Examination Dept., the Director-General of Markets Dept., and the Director-General of Payment and Settlement Systems Dept. He also served as the Alternate Executive Director for Japan in the International Monetary Fund, the Member of the Basel Committee for Banking Supervision (BCBS), the Member of the Markets Committee (MC) of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Member of the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructure (CPMI) of the BIS. He obtained LL.B. from the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law and LL.M. from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. He is the attorney of law in New York State. He is now working also as the chairperson of the Digital Currency Forum, which consists of leading companies and mega-banks in Japan.

Panel Discussion -Panellists-



SHIMAZAKI Masao

Deputy Director-General of the Strategy Development and Management Bureau, Financial Services Agency (JFSA)

Mr. Masao SHIMAZAKI joined the Ministry of Finance in 1995. At the JFSA, he has held several key positions, including: Director of the Banking Business Division II (responsible for supervising regional banks), Director of the Corporate Accounting and Disclosure Division, Director of the Financial Markets Division (in charge of financial market regulation), and Director of the Resources Management Division (overseeing human resources). He assumed his current role in July 2025. His responsibilities include promoting fintech and supervising the fintech sector, including funds transfer services and crypto asset exchange businesses.



Natalie Shiori FLEMING

Managing Director, Fintech Association of Japan

Natalie Shiori Fleming is GM Japan for Banking Circle, a next-generation technology-led payments bank which enables fintechs and banks of any scale to seize opportunities in the new economy. She previously helped lead the expansion of the fintech ecosystem in Japan as a Founding Director & Vice-Chairperson of the Fintech Association of Japan and has returned to the association as Managing Director. Her experience includes launching and expanding the Japan & APAC offices of multiple fintech startups including Wise, Payoneer and Infurion. Natalie obtained her MBA from INSEAD and BComm from UBC.



Damian NUSSBAUM

Executive Director of Innovation and Growth, City of London Corporation

Damian NUSSBAUM is Executive Director of Innovation and Growth at the City of London Corporation. His teams work to strengthen the UK's competitiveness as the world's leading global hub for financial and professional services to support a thriving economy. Previously he served in the central government. He worked on increasing institutional investment into UK infrastructure and development, strengthened government's engagement with business by setting up a strategic relationship management programme, and served as private secretary to two Secretaries of State. He has worked in Brussels, representing the UK in the EU, and in Paris at the UK Embassy, as well as periods at the energy provider EDF and on secondment to the French Foreign Ministry.



Hayley SEDGWICK

COO, Innovate Finance

Hayley Sedgwick is COO of Innovate Finance, the industry body representing the world-leading UK FinTech sector. Hayley joined Innovate Finance in 2015 and held the position of Commercial Director before stepping into the role of COO in February 2022. Hayley plays a crucial role in helping to set the high-level goals and priorities of the organisation, and ensuring operational standards are met. Hayley is passionate about creating a fairer, more transparent and sustainable financial services sector for all and harnessing the power of fintech to do so. Prior to joining Innovate Finance, Hayley spent nearly a decade working in the finance and media sectors holding global events and operations roles.

Firm Showcase



Ed GEMMAL

Global Business Development Lead, Datachain, Inc.

Ed GEMMAL leads Global Business Development and Growth at Datachain, focusing on cross-chain strategic partnerships across infrastructure, stablecoins, interoperability, and data privacy. Operating at the intersection of Web3 and traditional finance, turning complex blockchain technologies into practical, real-world applications.

With a global background and experience across multiple markets, Ed is known for connecting the dots—bringing together partners, ideas, and opportunities to help emerging ecosystems grow. He is particularly interested in how blockchain can reshape financial systems and enable new forms of collaboration and opportunities across borders. He holds an Executive MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology, along with certifications from MIT and Yale.



YAMAMURA Akira

Representative Director, Tractable KK | General Manager, Japan and APAC, Tractable Ltd.

Through his tenure at a Japanese financial solutions firm, Yamamura moved to BlackRock, a prominent US asset manager and technology provider. At BlackRock, he was engaged in technology-driven, enterprise-wide portfolio management. He focused on leading financial institutions—including domestic and international life and non-life insurers—through the transition to new investment process and risk analysis platforms, while also overseeing comprehensive client management.

In 2019, he joined Tractable as the first dedicated lead for existing customers in Asia, spearheading business expansion across the region. Following his roles as Head of Customer Success for APAC and Country Manager for Thailand, he assumed his current position in March 2026.



Samantha GHIOTTI

Co-founder & CEO, Habitto

Sam brings over 20 years of unique vantage point and global experience in Technology and Finance. Her track record spans across banking, investment and insurance in 5 continents, as an investor, entrepreneur and executive. She's the co-founder and CEO of Habitto, Japan's leading platform helping savers grow and protect their savings. She previously led the Singlife, through its meteoric growth and exit in 2021. She previously spent over a decade as an investor in Venture and Private Equity backing exceptional fintech entrepreneurs and businesses.

Consistently recognised as top cohort of women in fintech, Sam is a passionate steward of diversity and inclusion. Mother of two, she's an intrepid traveller with her family.



IZAWA Yutaka

Japan Representative, Sales Head North Asia, TRAYDSTREAM Japan, Inc.

Yutaka IZAWA is Managing Director at Traydstream, leading sales across Japan and North Asia and driving the firm's regional expansion and client delivery since 2021. He combines deep institutional banking expertise with a strong execution focus to grow strategic markets and support fintech innovation, informed by early entrepreneurial experience and exposure to AI technologies during his University years.

He spent over two decades at Citi, holding senior roles in Tokyo, London, São Paulo, and New York across corporate banking, structured finance, and cross-border relationship management. He led coverage of major Japanese multinationals and supported business across EMEA and Latin America. He later served as Executive Director at BBVA and Banco Santander, focusing on Japanese corporate clients and complex international solutions. A native speaker of English and Japanese, he brings global perspective, strong client relationships, and strategic insight.