Online Panel Discussion

Women in Tech:
Japanese & International Trailblazers

Wednesday, February 24, 6:30 PM

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm EST Online Panel Discussion

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Additional support is provided by an anonymous donor and the Sandy Heck Lecture Fund.
Noriko Arai received her doctoral degree in science from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1998. Her research interests are quite interdisciplinary: mathematical logic, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, math education, computer supported collaborative learning, science of science policy (SoSP) etc. She has been serving as invited speakers and program committee members in many international conferences in these research areas. As the director of the center of Research Center for Community Knowledge at National Institute of Informatics (Japan), she is leading several projects. Netcommons Project, Researchmap Project, Todai Robot Project, Reading Skill Test Project etc. NetCommons is the most popular content management system used in Japanese schools. More than 5,000 schools are now using NetCommons as their websites. Researchmap, Japanese Science of Science Policy (SoSP) platform, started in 2009, and more than 0.3 million researchers are now using it to manage their research inputs and outputs. It covers most of active researchers and their activities in Japan. She is directing an AI project "Can an AI pass the entrance exams of the University of Tokyo (Todai Robot Project)" since 2011, which was covered by not only major national media but also by international media including The New York Times. Her talk at TED, "Can an AI pass the entrance exams of the University of Tokyo?", has been translated to 23 languages and watched by 1.6 million people. Her recent interest has shifted to design "Reading Skill Test" to measure one's literacy. She was awarded many prizes including Prizes for Science and Technology by Ministry of Education and Technology in 2010, Nexplo Awards in 2016.

Sara Hooker is a research scholar at Google Brain doing deep learning research on reliable explanations of model predictions for black-box models. Her main research interests gravitate towards interpretability, model compression and security. In 2014, she founded Delta Analytics, a non-profit dedicated to bringing technical capacity to help non-profits across the world use machine learning for good. She grew up in Africa, in Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, South Africa, and Kenya. Her family now lives in Monrovia, Liberia.
**Yuka Kojima** is the CEO & Co-Founder of the eyesight-tracking VR headset company FOVE Inc. Kojima previously worked at Sony Interactive Entertainment and Gree as a game producer, and raised a cumulative $20 million from Foxconn, Samsung, NIKON and other companies. Approximately 8000 units of the VR headset have been sold. Kojima has been recognized as one of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia and Nikkei’s Woman of the Year, and received an award from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, among other honors.

**Catherine Kobayashi** is a news anchor/reporter for NHK WORLD-JAPAN based in New York City. Before moving to New York in 2017, she worked in Tokyo as one of the lead anchors for NHK NEWSLINE, NHK WORLD-JAPAN’s flagship program. In March 2011, Catherine and her team worked tirelessly to report on the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear emergency in Fukushima. In February 2009, Catherine launched NHK WORLD's 24-hour international broadcasting service, a first for any Japanese network.

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Many are hopeful that the new coronavirus vaccine will bring an end to the pandemic that has cost more than 1.5 million lives and plunged the world’s economies into decline. However, the virus remains rampant and the world is still engulfed in a health crisis. In Japan, the Japanese government continues to take measures to suppress the spread of the coronavirus. What is the current situation in Japan? Why is the COVID-19 death rate low in Japan compared to other countries? In this webinar, leading Japanese experts share their insights into the latest situation in Japan, the government’s response to the coronavirus and the nation’s plan for the COVID-19 vaccination.

This event is part of the Japanese government’s “Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan” program.

Register —>
At this program, sake expert John Gauntner illuminated the unique nature of Kanagawa sake, and Izumibashi president Yuichi Hashiba gave a behind-the-scenes look at the Izumibashi brewery facility through an exclusive virtual tour. The program concluded with a virtual sake and food pairing.

Watch Video —>

Kamakura-bori is a traditional woodcraft from Kanagawa Prefecture. Enjoy exquisite examples of this carving art, which is known for being a practical craft with impressive carving and rich urushi finishes.

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Tourism Resources

Kanagawa Prefecture has a rich history and many fascinating sites to explore. Learn the stories behind famous Buddhist temples, discover the healthy and fortifying diets of Buddhist monks, and much more!

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