

Mr. Tomoki SAWAI

Director

WIPO Japan Office

Took the position of Director-General, Patent and Design Examination Department, Director-General, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology), Director, Administrative Affairs Division, Director, International Affairs Division, Consulting Fellow, Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Director, Information Technology Planning Office of the Japan Patent Office, Chief Representative, Washington Office, Institute of Intellectual Property (concurrent position of Director, Intellectual Property Department JETRO New York), the examiner, and Administrative Patent Judge. Assumed current position of Director, World Intellectual Property Organization Japan Office in 2019.

During his service at the Japan Patent Office, he led the initiatives on the revisions of the Patent Law, the Design Law, examination processing measures and standards, and the international harmonization of the Patent systems. Under the current position, he focuses on raising awareness of the IP system and coordinate with the Japanese government, courts, industry, and universities.

WIPO PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



Mr. Yasuyuki KASAI

Commissioner

Japan Patent Office

Professional experience:

2025 July	Commissioner, Japan Patent Office
2023 July	Councilor, Cabinet Secretariat
2021 July	Director-General, National Space Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office
2019 July	Deputy Director-General, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
2018 July	Director, General Coordination Division, Japan Patent Office
2015 July	Director for Industrial and Labor Policy, Cabinet Office
2014 July	Director, Industry Revitalization Division, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
2009 July	Counsellor, Fourth Department, Cabinet Legislation Bureau
2009 January	Director for Economic Structure Policy, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
1990 April	Joined Ministry of International Trade and Industry

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Dr.Shinobu YAMAGUCHI

Director,

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Since 2019 Dr. Yamaguchi has been Director of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). Her fields of specialization include international development and cooperation, ICT in education, education policy, science and technology policy, and the application of technology in world heritage site preservation. As UNU-IAS Director she has delivered expert interventions at numerous UN conferences and meetings including UN Climate Change Conferences (UNFCCC COPs), the annual UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the Transforming Education Summit, and sessions of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) at UN ECOSOC.

Prior to this post Dr. Yamaguchi was Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology (from 2006, current Institute of Science Tokyo), where she is currently serving as Professor Emeritus. In her earlier career Dr. Yamaguchi worked for UNESCO, primarily on the development of education systems in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Pakistan.

Dr. Yamaguchi has served on several committees of the Government of Japan. She is also an active member of the Japan Society for International Development, and the Japan Comparative Education Society. Dr. Yamaguchi holds a PhD in Economics of Education from Columbia University. She has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications and conference/seminar presentations.

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Mr. Masafumi YAMAMOTO

Executive Officer in charge of Corporate Ethics, Compliance, Legal, Intellectual Property and Information Security

Daikin Industries, Ltd.

In-House Experience	June 26, 2020	Executive Officer, Daikin Industries, Ltd. Responsible for Corporate Ethics, Compliance, Legal affairs, Intellectual Property and Information Security (incumbent)
	June 28, 2018	Executive Officer, Daikin Industries, Ltd. Responsible for CSR, Global Environment, Corporate Ethics, Compliance, Legal affairs, Intellectual Property and Information Security
	June 29, 2016	Executive Officer, Daikin Industries, Ltd. Responsible for CSR, Global Environment, Corporate Ethics, Compliance, Legal Affairs and Intellectual Property
	June 26, 2015	Executive Officer, Daikin Industries, Ltd. Responsible for Corporate Ethics, Compliance, Legal Affairs and Intellectual Property
	September 1, 2014	Joined Daikin Industries, Ltd. General Manager of Legal, Compliance and Intellectual Property Center
External Career	April 2013	Director-General, Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry
	June 2011	Director, Japan Finance Corporation
	July 2009	Director General, General Affairs Department, Japan Patent Office

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July 2008	Director-General, Hokkaido Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry
July 2007	Counselor, Intellectual Property Strategy Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat
June 2006	Director, General Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office
June 2004	Director, Planning Division, Business Environment Department, Small and Medium Enterprise Agency
August 1999	Counselor, Fourth Department, Cabinet Legislation Bureau
June 1995	Director, Industrial Property System Revision Deliberation Office, Japan Patent Office
April 1991	First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Mexico, Ministry of Foreign Affair
April 1981	Ministry of International Trade and Industry

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Dr. Nompumelelo OBOKOH

Head,

Climate Change and Food Security Office of the Assistant Director General

Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO

Dr. Nompumelelo Obokoh leads global efforts to accelerate the diffusion of green innovation through the WIPO GREEN platform, fostering collaboration among solution seekers, innovators, businesses, and institutions worldwide. She trained as a plant molecular biologist at the University of Cambridge, Magdalene College, applying molecular technologies to advance plant science and improve agricultural productivity.

She has held senior executive roles in bioeconomy development, innovation support, and the biotechnology sector, with expertise in intellectual property, public–private partnerships, and scaling agricultural innovations across Africa.

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