

# Introduction to *Japan SPOTLIGHT's* Editorial Committee Members

By *Japan SPOTLIGHT*

(Listed in alphabetical order by surname)



## Mohan Gopal

Representative Director of Art of Living Japan

Mohan Gopal is an Indian national who has lived in Japan for a long time. He has held several positions including CTO of Camel International Group and visiting faculty at a university in Tokyo. He is an IT industry professional. He is a long-time volunteer with the Art of Living Foundation which is an international NGO promoting yoga and peaceful thinking. He actively presents his views on business, culture and technology in Japan.

## Nobuo Iizuka

Professor of Department of Economics, Kanagawa University

Having worked for the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* (Nikkei) and the Japan Center for Economic Research for more than 20 years as a journalist and an economist, Nobuo Iizuka is one of the most credible economists and commentators on the short-term outlook for Japanese business and economy. His economic analyses are always based upon his sharp intuitive observations of business data.



## Ken Karube

Executive Writer/Chief Commentator, Jiji Press

Ken Karube is executive writer/chief commentator for Tokyo-based wire service Jiji Press, which he joined in 1979 after graduating from Waseda University. He was a correspondent in Washington in 1992-96, before becoming deputy editor of the economic news section in Tokyo. From 2004 to 2009, he was in the US again as chief of the Washington Bureau and the New York Bureau. He was deputy managing editor at the Tokyo head office in 2010-13 before taking his current post. Among his books are *Failure of Economic Policy Management* (1999) and *Money Politics in the United States* (2009).

## Sota Kato

Professor of International University of Japan, Research Director and Senior Fellow of the Tokyo Foundation

After working for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for nearly a decade, Sota Kato started to pursue an academic career with Japanese universities and think tanks such as the International University of Japan, the Research Institute of Economy Trade and Industry (RIETI), and the Tokyo Foundation. Though generally considered a political scientist, his notable strength as a researcher is an interdisciplinary and quantitative approach to economics and politics. His expertise makes him an active commentator on the Japanese political scene.



## Long Ke

Senior Fellow, Economic Research Center, Fujitsu Research Institute

Born in China and having studied economics at Nagoya University in Japan, Long Ke is a distinguished economist and opinion leader on the Chinese economy in the Japanese policy research community. He has long been an advocate of political reform in China as a key to achieving economic reform in the country.

*Japan SPOTLIGHT* has become a free publication since our last issue in March/April 2016. We hope this will contribute to promoting a wider readership and the sharing of knowledge and high-quality economic and political analysis among as many people as possible. Intelligence is the most crucial weapon in facing the increasingly significant challenges of our globalized world, and we believe *Japan SPOTLIGHT* provides such intelligence.

In this issue we would like to introduce the members of our editorial committee, who are all experts on various aspects of economy, politics, culture and language, or well known among the quality Japanese media. Most have been members of the committee since early 2011, and we hope that publicizing this list will contribute to increasing the credibility of our e-magazine.



## Keiichiro Kobayashi

Professor of Department of Economics, Keio University

Keiichiro Kobayashi has experience of the economic policy-making process as a former government official at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. His interest in economic research led him to join RIETI and pursue an academic career. He has been an active commentator on economic policy issues, in particular fiscal and monetary policies, such as how to eliminate non-performing loans after the bubble economy in Japan. His current interest cover areas such as innovation and income inequality.

## Kazumasa Oguro

Professor of Department of Economics, Hosei University

Having worked for the Japanese Ministry of Finance for several years, Kazumasa Oguro became deeply interested in academic research on the macroeconomy and public finance. He joined the Faculty of the Institute of Economic Research at Hitotsubashi University and recently moved to Hosei University. He is one of the most active advocates of fiscal reconstruction, including a consumption tax hike to reduce the cumulative budget debt of the Japanese government. He is a first-class analyst of Japanese monetary policy in the international context as well as the global economy overall.



## Sanjeev Sinha

President, IJIP Asset Management Co., Ltd.

Sanjeev Sinha is president of IJIP Asset Management Co. Ltd. and a keen promoter of investments between India and Japan. He previously worked with Goldman Sachs, Mizuho Securities and as chief representative of Tata Asset Management in Japan. He has lived in Japan since 1996 and is the author of two books — *Sugoi Indo* (Amazing India) and *Indo to Nihon ha Saikyou Combi* (India-Japan: The Most Powerful Combination) — both published in Japanese.

## Mukesh Williams

Professor Soka University and Visiting Faculty Keio University

Mukesh Williams is a university educator, media writer and poet. He has taught literature, media and cultural history at St. Stephen's College, Soka University and Keio University. He co-authored the book *Representing India* which provides a commentary on politics, literature, media and the Indian diaspora over the last two centuries. He has conducted seminars on global cultures and counseled Japanese universities on academic exchange and PR strategies. His favourite authors are Haruki Murakami and Saul Bellow.



## Jillian Yorke

Interpreter and Translator

Co-author of several books, Jillian Yorke worked for the Public Relations Office, Minister's Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in Tokyo as an English editor and checker for over a decade. She now lives in New Zealand, where she is curator of the Japan Library: Pukapuka, as well as a freelance writer, translator, and interpreter, and often visits Japan.