

Live Webinar

The Father of Japan's Modern Economy and Capitalism, Eiichi Shibusawa: His Timeless Vision, Philosophy, and Legacy

March 25, 2021



Featuring:

Ken Shibusawa, Chief Executive Officer, Shibusawa and Company, Inc.; Founder and Chairman, Commons Asset Management

Moderator:

David E. Weinstein, Director, CJEB; Carl S. Shoup Professor of the Japanese Economy, Columbia University

On March 25, 2021, CJEB held a live webinar featuring Ken Shibusawa, with Professor David Weinstein serving as moderator. The speakers discussed Mr. Eiichi Shibusawa's life as a champion of civil society from the late nineteenth through the early decades of the twentieth century who contributed to the modern Japanese economic system through his founding of some 500 companies, some of which exist today, as well as 600 social enterprises, such as universities, hospitals, social welfare organizations, and NPO/NGOs. They commented on the everlasting relevance of Mr. Shibusawa's concepts from over 100 years ago, such as corporate governance, stakeholder capitalism, and profit-sharing, in light of recent increased attention to corporate and social obligations in Japan. They also noted that when translated into present-day language, Mr. Eiichi Shibusawa's message resonates with present-day initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and impact investing, and discussed the notion that the stage is set for Japan to enter into a new era with DX (not just Digital, but Demographic Transformation). The webinar concluded with a Q&A session with the audience, including a question from Columbia Business School student Yasuhiro Kanemaru '22. To view the video recording of the webinar, please visit <https://youtu.be/oGBcRB9mLMo>.