

Live Webinar

## **ESG through the Looking Glass: U.S. and Japanese Investors' Engagement Agendas**

April 5, 2022



*Featuring:*

**Verity Chegar**, Sustainable Investment and Stewardship Strategies, California State Teachers' Retirement System

**Miyuki Zeniya**, Deputy Head of Global Sustainability, Dai-ichi Life Holdings, Inc.; Head of Sustainable Finance, The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited

*Moderator:*

**Alicia Ogawa**, Project Director for Japanese Corporate Governance and Stewardship, CJEB

On April 5, 2022, CJEB presented a live webinar featuring Verity Chegar and Miyuki Zeniya. Asset managers and asset owners (such as pension funds) are communicating with their investee companies more actively than ever before in order to advance their ESG agendas. The speakers discussed various topics including 1) To what degree, if any, should these agendas be tailored to local customs and business practices? For example, should "diversity" be defined differently in Japan than in the U.S.? 2) How are asset managers and asset owners joining together in groups such as Climate Action 100+ (whose purpose is to reduce carbon emissions) and the 30% Club (whose purpose is to increase gender equality) in order to strengthen their effectiveness at promoting key ESG issues? What has been the role of non-investment groups, such as As You Sow, religious organizations, labor unions, etc., in joining with investors in shareholder social activism? 3) How has the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine changed the agenda for investors when they engage with companies? 4) What are the arguments for and against divestment as a policy tool? 5) How does the global investment community rate the strategies and disclosures of Japanese firms on ESG factors? How are the new reporting standards such as SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board) and TCFD (Task Force on Climate-Related Disclosures) being implemented in Japan? To view the video recording of the webinar, please visit <https://youtu.be/ldnChELOmRs>.