

# A Strategy to Address Japan's Declining Fertility Rate

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Room 520, Geffen Hall, Columbia Business School



*Featuring:*

**Randall S. Jones**, Research Associate, CJEB; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS); Member Former Senior Counselor - East Asia and Head of Japan/Korea Desk, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

*Moderator:*

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

With Japan's total fertility rate falling to a record low 1.26 in 2022, Prime Minister Kishida's stated, "We must create a children-first economic society and reverse the birth rate decline." During the event, Dr. Jones explained that while there is no simple explanation or solution for the low birth rate, strengthening the weak financial position of youth, making it easier to combine paid work and family responsibilities, and reducing the cost of children may have a positive effect. He also discussed how, given the challenge of reversing fertility trends, Japan needs to prepare for a low-fertility future by raising productivity and employment, particularly among women and older people, and increasing inflows of foreign workers.