

Shinkansen: The Features and Influence of Japanese High-Speed Rail

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | 12:50 – 1:50 PM
Room 420, Geffen Hall, Columbia Business School



Featuring:

Naohisa Kitada, General Manager, Washington DC Office, Central Japan Railway Company

Moderator:

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

Hosted by:

CJEB and Japan Business Association, Columbia Business School

The Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central) operates the high-speed rail with the world's largest transportation volume, "Tokaido Shinkansen," linking Tokyo and Osaka, and 12 regional lines. Mr. Kitada discussed the differences between the rail industries in the United States and Japan. He introduced JR Central's business, including its quality and transportation-oriented development of Tokaido Shinkansen, its detailed crash avoidance concept—the SCMaglev system—which enables commercial services at a speed of 500km/hr. (about 310 miles/hr.), and the Chuo Shinkansen project. He also talked about the status and future of JR Central's high-speed railway deployments in the United States as part of its overseas expansion.