



Left to right: OGINO Ryoko, WAKATABE Masazumi, SASANUMA Taisuke, Merit E. Janow, David E. Weinstein, KOIKE Yuriko, MOGI Yuzaburo '61, UOTANI Masahiko '83, UENO Shingo

CJEB 40th Anniversary Tokyo Gala

*A Special Celebration Commemorating 40 Years of
The Center on Japanese Economy and Business (CJEB) at Columbia Business School*

Hotel New Otani Tokyo, Japan

August 3, 2026

The Center on Japanese Economy and Business (CJEB) at Columbia Business School (CBS) held the CJEB 40th Anniversary Tokyo Gala in order to commemorate 40 years of the Center, connect with individuals who are a part of CJEB's vast network, and launch the 40th anniversary series of special events during the 2026-27 academic year.



David E. Weinstein

CJEB promotes knowledge and understanding of the Japanese economy and its business systems within domestic, bilateral, and international contexts. Founded in 1986 by Hugh Patrick, the R. D. Calkins Professor of International Business Emeritus at CBS, and currently led by its director David E. Weinstein, the Carl S. Shoup Professor of the Japanese Economy at Columbia University, CJEB is the preeminent center on Japanese business and economics anywhere outside of Japan.

The special gala event gathered distinguished benefactors, advisors, and government, corporate, and academic leaders to celebrate four decades of impactful research, policy discourse, and cross-cultural academic exchange. The evening also served as a formal opportunity to express deep gratitude to CJEB's extensive network of individual and corporate



Merit E. Janow

sponsors, whose generous funding makes the Center's research and operations possible.

The gala featured addresses from prominent government officials, corporate executives, and distinguished scholars. While His Excellency KOIZUMI Shinjiro, Minister of Defense in the Government of Japan, was unable to

attend due to matters related to the recent earthquake in Kumamoto, the program featured a distinguished roster of speakers.

The evening featured special remarks from **KOIKE Yuriko**, Governor of Tokyo; **MOGI**

Yuzaburo '61, Honorary CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors at Kikkoman Corporation and Honorary Chairman of the Japan Productivity Center;

SASANUMA Taisuke, Representative Partner at Advantage Partners; **UENO Shingo**, Representative Director, President, and CEO of Sumitomo Corporation; **UOTANI Masahiko '83**, Former Chairman of the Board at Shiseido Co., Ltd. and CEO of Global Insights Corporation; and **WAKATABE Masazumi**, Professor of the School of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University, Member of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, and Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Japan.

CJEB Director **David E. Weinstein** and longtime CJEB core faculty member **Merit E. Janow**, Dean Emerita of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Professor of Practice in International Economic Law and International Affairs at Columbia University, began the night with opening and welcoming remarks, respectively. To open the evening's formal



KOIKE Yuriko



MOGI Yuzaburo '61

proceedings, Professor Weinstein reflected on CJEB's origins during the contentious U.S.-Japan trade disputes of the 1980s, contrasting that era's protectionist rhetoric with today's deeply integrated economic and security alliance. He emphasized that while trade policy and tariffs have re-emerged in global debates, the U.S.-



SASANUMA Taisuke

Japan partnership has evolved into an indispensable bilateral relationship anchored by shared regional security interests.

He also shared a pre-recorded message from Professor Patrick, who discussed how he established the Center to create an academic bridge between Japan and the United States with the mission of furthering learning of the Japanese economy and its business systems, underscored the importance of CJEB sponsors, advisors, and friends to the ongoing success of the Center, and congratulated CJEB and Professor Weinstein on this special anniversary.

Highlighting CJEB's history of hosting over 300 visiting scholars, publishing over 400 working papers, and convening over 1,000 events, Professor Weinstein discussed the numerous ways that the Center has contributed to the U.S.-Japan relationship. He also reaffirmed the Center's commitment to producing relevant, thought-provoking research and providing forums to discuss Japan's economic and business developments.

He concluded with a solemn tribute to the late Professor Takatoshi Ito, who was Director of CJEB's Program on Public Pension and Sovereign Funds and a Professor at SIPA. The tribute included a moment of silence and a commemorative video highlighting Professor Ito's countless contributions as an economist, mentor, and colleague.

The subsequent addresses provided valuable commentary on the intersection of corporate



UENO Shingo



UOTANI Masahiko '83

leadership, policy, and CJEB's historical influence. Professor Janow reflected on her decades-long involvement with CJEB and its Tokyo conferences, noting how the Center has consistently addressed key and recurring macroeconomic themes like deflation while praising the pioneering research of CJEB-affiliated faculty, including

Professors Patrick, Weinstein, and Ito. **MOGI Yuzaburo** detailed his formative experiences at Columbia Business School and the strategic principles that guided Kikkoman Corporation's international expansion and global success. **UENO Shingo** discussed the future of Sumitomo Corporation, the evolving role of *sogo shosha* (general trading companies), and Sumitomo's long-standing partnership with CJEB since its founding. **Governor KOIKE Yuriko** congratulated CJEB on its milestone anniversary and reflected on her ten-year tenure leading the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, highlighting improvements and successes over the past decade. **UOTANI Masahiko** discussed his career after graduating from Columbia Business School, reviewed Japan's broader economic shifts over recent decades, and underscored CJEB's contributions to the U.S.-Japan economic relationship. **WAKATABE Masazumi** offered an analytical assessment of Japan's structural reforms and macroeconomic position and shared his experience at CJEB as a visiting scholar. **SASANUMA Taisuke** shared insights on regional revitalization initiatives under the current U.S. administration and emphasized the importance of continued support for CJEB.



WAKATABE Masazumi



Left to right: WAKATABE Masazumi, SASANUMA Taisuke, UENO Shingo, David E. Weinstein, MOGI Yuzaburo '61, Merit E. Janow, OGINO Ryoko, UOTANI Masahiko '83

The Center was also honored to receive written remarks from a few close friends who could not attend in person. The remarks are included below.

“To Hugh, David, and all of CJEB:

Warmest congratulations on celebrating 40 remarkable years! I look back fondly on our inspiring conversations and the insightful conferences you’ve hosted. Beyond your grand academic contributions, I deeply appreciate your kindness and hospitality in welcoming my students whenever the opportunity arose.

Over the last four decades, the Center has played a vital role in tackling shared U.S.–Japan priorities. May CJEB continue to flourish as an indispensable bridge of intellect and friendship between our two countries.”

UEDA Kazuo
Governor
Bank of Japan

“Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the Center on Japanese Economy and Business. I still remember being invited by Professor Hugh Patrick to lecture at Columbia University many years ago, and later by Professor David Weinstein to lecture again as a visiting professor at the Center on Japanese Economy and Business of Columbia Business School. I really enjoyed teaching graduate students at Columbia.

I am confident that CJEB will continue to contribute to the study of the Japanese economy and business and to cooperation between Japanese businesspeople and Columbia University faculty members, and I am positive that the Center will eventually celebrate a hundred years of service.

With best regards.”

KURODA Haruhiko
Former Governor
Bank of Japan
GRIPS Alliance Senior Fellow
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

“Dear friends of CJEB,
Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the Center on Japanese Economy and Business.

Throughout my career, I have been inspired by Japanese management philosophy. The ideas of *Sanpō Yoshi* and *shinise* remind us that success is measured not only by business results, but by creating lasting value for society and building institutions that endure for generations. As a Columbia Trustee, I believe that same long-term vision defines great universities.

Today, I am especially encouraged by Japan's renewed spirit of entrepreneurship. More young Japanese are coming to the United States with bold ideas and global ambitions. Columbia is a wonderful place to learn from outstanding faculty, build lifelong friendships, and develop the global networks that help turn ideas into lasting enterprises.

For forty years, CJEB has connected Japan and the world while preparing generations of leaders to succeed across cultures. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone and thank you for inspiring the next generation of global leaders.”

Kikka Hanazawa
Trustee
Columbia University

CJEB is deeply grateful to Ms. Hanazawa, Governor Kuroda, and Governor Ueda for sharing such generous words about the Center and its people.

In his closing remarks, Professor Weinstein reaffirmed that the gala was a success not merely as a celebration of metrics, but as a testament to the institutional relationships built over the past 40 years. He noted that current and future generations of business and policy



David E. Weinstein

leaders must actively engage in discussion and exchange to maintain bilateral understanding. Reiterating his deep appreciation to the corporate and individual sponsors whose continuous backing sustains the Center's research and programming, Professor Weinstein expressed confidence in the Center's trajectory as it embarks on its next four decades of academic leadership.