

## NICE2021 2nd Stage Panelist Biographies

### **Manuel C. Menendez III**

#### **Chairman & CEO MCM Group Holdings Ltd. & 8M8 LLC**

Established MCM Group Holdings, and has engaged in consulting business in a wide range of industrial sectors in China and the Asia-Pacific region on investment, trade, market development, M&A and more for nearly 40 years. Previously held role as a UN Special Adviser to WHO and UNEP.

### **XIONG Ling**

#### **Senior Partner, Lawyer, Beijing DADI Law Firm; Doctor of Law**

Graduated from the Civil, Commercial and Economic Law School at China University of Political Science and Law, and the Department of International Economic Law at Aoyama Gakuin University. Holds various memberships, including All China Lawyers Association and Chinese Law Society. Lived in Japan for 15 years, and is vastly experienced helping Japanese clients in multiple areas, such as market entry in China, corporate restructuring, M&A, dispute resolution, intellectual property rights, and environmental protection.

### **WAKAMATSU Isamu**

#### **Chief Senior Economist, Overseas Research Department, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)**

Joined the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in 1989. First worked as an Asian Region Researcher at JETRO Bangkok, then became Director of the Asia and Pacific Division, and Director of the Overseas Research Planning Division. Stationed in the U.S. from March 2016 to October 2020 as Executive Director of Research and Information Services at JETRO New York.

### **HAYASHI Chino**

#### **Leader, China Desk, Global Business Support & Promotion Department, Sojitz Corporation**

Graduated from Beijing Language Institute (now Beijing Language and Culture University). Joined Nissho Iwai Co., Ltd. (currently Sojitz



2021 Northeast Asia International Conference for Economic Development (NICE) in Niigata with the Japan-Russia Energy and Environment Dialogue in Niigata

2021 北東アジア経済発展国際会議 (NICE) イン新潟・日露エネルギー・環境対話イン新潟

Corporation). Trained at the U.S. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Served as General Manager of the Human Resources & General Affairs Department of Sojitz (China), China Desk Leader in the Market Development Department at company headquarters, among other positions, and commenced current position in June 2017.

#### **WATANABE Yutaka**

**Chief Executive Officer, TOWA JAPAN Corporation; President, Niigata Vietnam Association**

Joined TOWA Industrial Co., Ltd. (now TOWA JAPAN), a manufacturer of precision parts for sewing machines and automobiles located in Shibata, Niigata Prefecture. In 1995, Established TOWA Industrial (VIETNAM) Co., Ltd., becoming President and Representative Director. In 2001, established TOWA Industrial (SHANGHAI) Trading Co., Ltd., and has since served as Representative Director. In 2008, elected Representative Director of TOWA Industrial (now TOWA JAPAN). Elected Chairman of the Niigata Vietnam Association in 2013.

#### **YAMADA Yoshihiro**

**Managing Director, L.TSUBAME CO., LTD.; President, EIKO KAIUN CO., LTD.**

Graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration at Kanazawa Gakuin University. Worked in a major logistics company, then in 2007 joined L.TSUBAME CO., LTD., located in Tsubame City, Niigata Prefecture, and moved to Shanghai, China. Assisted Chinese entrepreneur in founding SHANGHAI KOUTOKU INTERNATIONAL TRADE CO., LTD. In 2018, became the first logistics company in Niigata Prefecture to establish a local subsidiary in Shanghai, China, and developed international logistics operations.