

Japan's International Contribution through Innovation in the Field of International Health

Speaker:

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Dr. Kurokawa is an adjunct professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and the current Board Chairman of the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) which is a public-private partnership that facilitates international partnerships that bring Japanese innovation, investment, and leadership to the global fight against infectious diseases and poverty in the developing world. He graduated from the University of Tokyo and taught at UCLA (1979-1984) and at the University of Tokyo (1989-96). He was the Dean of Tokai University Medical School (1996-2002) and the President of the Science Council of Japan (2003-2006). He served as the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan (2006-2008) and a Commissioner of WHO (2005-2009). He was appointed member of the World Dementia Council by the UK Government in 2014 and member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2015. He was appointed the Chair of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission by the National Diet of Japan. In 2012 he received the AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award and was named in the 100 Top Global Thinkers of Foreign Policy.

Abstract:

While development of innovation brings about major changes to our daily life, issues such as the spread of infectious diseases as well as malnutrition and poverty in developing countries still remain unresolved. As a result, the gap between developed and developing countries continues to widen. The same can be said for post-war Japan when infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and a filarial disease were quite widespread in the country. However, Japanese people became the first in the world to overcome these challenges through tackling a crisis together as well as through their efforts in research and development, and by conducting innovative reforms including their social system. Based on Japan's own past experience, the country has been making tremendous contributions toward the amelioration of global public health and the eradication of infectious diseases.

In 2013, the Government of Japan and five Japanese pharmaceutical companies formally-inaugurated a public-private partnership named Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) aimed at enhancing Japan's contributions in the field of international health by exercising Japan's innovative capabilities.

Dr. Kurokawa, Board Chairman of the GHIT Fund will discuss how globalization and innovation impacts society in both positive and negative ways. He is also going to look at how countries such as Japan and Canada that lead the world in innovation should actively collaborate on international health by utilizing innovation.

Thurs November 12, 2015

12:00 - 1:30 (Free of Charge)

Dodson Lecture Room at Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
(1961 East Mall V6T 1Z1)