

The 15th: 2026 Business and Human Rights Conference in Tokyo

In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; consequently, the development of legislation and reporting standards related to human rights—including within supply chains—has been accelerating globally (e.g., CS3D, CSRD, and IFRS). On the other hand, the year 2025 has seen a rollback of sustainability-related policies by the Trump administration in the United States. Simultaneously, concerns are growing in Europe over increased corporate burdens and their impact on European competitiveness, leading to widespread calls for caution regarding excessive regulatory pressure. As a result, regulations and standards are no longer moving in a single direction; instead, they are evolving through a “fluctuating between tightening and easing.”

Despite these fluctuations, we must recognize that the essential value of ESG initiatives has not diminished. Rather, the focus is shifting away from superficial compliance toward substantive actions that directly address human rights. By deeply embedding respect for human rights into core business operations, companies can foster sustainable growth and strengthen their long-term international competitiveness. In this context, stakeholders are increasingly demanding that companies demonstrate robust management capabilities through decision-making that integrates sustainability into every strategic choice. In spite of this imperative, while the number of companies undertaking human rights due diligence is increasing, only a small number are effectively implementing the process in accordance with the Guiding Principles; the reality is that many companies remain at the stage of formulating policies and conducting general risk assessments.

For the 15th “2026 Business and Human Rights Conference in Tokyo”, we will invite leading international experts in the field of business and human rights to discuss global trends and the current and emerging challenges. We aim to explore the specific actions required of Japanese companies while also providing an opportunity for these international experts to foster a deeper understanding of Japanese companies’ efforts to respect human rights. This conference will provide a forum for corporate representatives facing these challenges to learn effective methods for implementing the UNGPs and derive actionable insights.

Hiroshi Ishida,
Executive Director, Caux Round Table Japan

Key Sessions & Discussion Topics (tentative)

1. Corporate Initiatives: Action and Implementation

2. Panel Discussion with International Experts

Experts and representatives of Japanese companies will exchange views on four key issues, to explore concrete avenues for resolving these challenges:

- Traceability and Resilience in Raw Material Supply Chains
- Protecting Migrant Workers' Rights: From Recruitment to Operational Practice
- Operationalizing Human Rights Due Diligence: Measuring and Ensuring Effectiveness
- Human Rights Outlook 2027–2028: Identifying the Next High-Priority Issues

3. Message from OHCHR and OECD

Overview

Date & Time	10:00–17:00 JST, Friday, 23 rd October 2026 (Connection opens at 9:45)
Format	Online only (Live streaming via Zoom)
Host	Caux Round Table Japan (CRT Japan)
Cooperation	ANA Holdings Inc., Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd., Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line), Mazda Motor Corporation, JP Research & Consulting, Regrit Partners Co., Ltd., Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Tokio Marine DR Co., Ltd.
International Organisations	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), OECD, World Benchmarking Alliance, Ethical Impact, RFP Advisory Services
Capacity	Registration will close once the Zoom capacity limit is reached.
Participation Fee	10,000 JPY per person (Payment instructions will be provided when you register.)
Language	Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation
Registration	Scheduled to open in August. The registration link will be provided soon.
Notice	Please note that videos and materials used will not be distributed or made available via other media.
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