


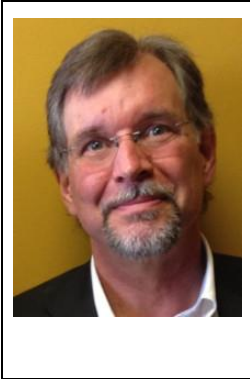



## PARTICIPANT PROFILES

	<p><b>Hiroo Saionji</b>  Hiroo Saionji is President of the Goi Peace Foundation and the World Peace Prayer Society. He travels the world promoting dialogues and initiatives for peace. Mr. Saionji is the great-grandson of Prince Kinmochi Saionji, who was twice Prime Minister of Japan during the Meiji Period. He currently serves as a member of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. In 2007, Mr. Saionji was awarded the Cultural Prize of the Dr. Lin Tsung-i Foundation of Taiwan, in recognition of his contributions to world peace. In 2010, he received the Social Education Distinguished Service Award from the Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.</p>
	<p><b>Masami Saionji</b>  Masami Saionji is Chairperson of the Goi Peace Foundation, Byakko Shinko Kai, and the World Peace Prayer Society, and an honorary member of the Club of Budapest. She promotes peace awareness and a new way of life based on our innate infinite creativity and potential. She has authored over twenty books in Japanese and ten in English and other languages, including <i>The Golden Key to Happiness</i>, <i>You Are the Universe</i>, and <i>Vision for the 21st Century</i>. In 2008, she and her husband Hiroo were awarded the Philosopher Saint Shree Dnyaneshwara World Peace Prize in India. She is also the recipient of the 2010 WON Award honoring distinguished women leaders and the 2016 Barbara Fields Humanitarian Peace Award.</p>
<b>Session 1</b>	
	<p><b>Barbara Fields</b>  Dr. Barbara Fields is Executive Director of The Association for Global New Thought. She is Co-founder and project director of The Gandhi King Seasons for Peace and Nonviolence, the Synthesis Dialogues I, II, &amp; III with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and omni-local initiatives for the Harvard-based Abraham Walk Initiative in the Middle East. Formerly, she served as Program Director for the Parliament of the World's Religions, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, and delegate to the UNESCO Seminar on Religion and Peace. Awards include: Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and Religious Science International's first Peace Award. She is a contributing author of <i>The Community of Religions</i>; <i>Two Hundred Visionaries</i>; and <i>Women, Spirituality and Transformative Leadership: Where Grace Meets Power</i>. <a href="http://www.agnt.org">www.agnt.org</a></p>
	<p><b>Stephen Travis Pope</b>  Stephen Travis Pope is an award-winning composer, filmmaker, computer scientist and social activist based in Santa Barbara, California. Since the early 1980s, he has developed multimedia software, and has over 100 technical publications on music theory and composition, computer music and artificial intelligence. He has taught and conducted music research at Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley and Santa Barbara, and elsewhere. Stephen is also a practicing Quaker, a conscientious objection and counter-recruitment counselor and a seasoned workshop facilitator with the Alternatives to Violence Project, working for over 10 years in the state and federal prison systems. <a href="http://www.create.ucsb.edu/~stp/">www.create.ucsb.edu/~stp/</a></p>
	<p><b>Linda Francis</b>  Linda Francis is the co-author of <i>The Heart of the Soul: Emotional Awareness</i>, a <i>New York Times</i> bestseller, and <i>The Mind of the Soul: Responsible Choice</i>, both with Gary Zukav. She is a Doctor of Chiropractic, a registered nurse, and a co-founder with Gary Zukav of the Seat of the Soul Institute, the premier organization dedicated to supporting individuals in learning about and creating authentic power and spiritual partnerships. She creates programs, activities, and materials for the Seat of the Soul Institute, and is committed to introducing authentic power and spiritual partnerships around the world. <a href="http://www.seatofthesoul.com">www.seatofthesoul.com</a></p>



### **Sande Hart**

Sande Hart is Director of the Charter for Compassion's Women and Girls sector, which strives to elevate opportunities for a greater inclusion of voices and involvement of women in leadership for global healing and transformation through the transformational lens of compassion. Sande is also Founder and President of S.A.R.A.H. (Spiritual And Religious Alliance for Hope), a women's interfaith organization birthed after the events of 9-11, and is the Women's Coach for the Compassion Games International, a fun, inspirational, creative and important way to engage community. Sande is also Past President of the United Religions Initiative North America, the world's largest network of grassroots interfaith organizations.

[www.sandehart.com](http://www.sandehart.com)

[www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/partners/women-and-girls](http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/partners/women-and-girls)



### **Mitsuhei Murata**

As a diplomat, Mitsuhei Murata served as Ambassador to Senegal (1989-1992) and Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein (1996-1999), among other posts. He was Director General of the Japan Society for Global System and Ethics (2008-2016) and is Honorary Professor Emeritus at Tokai Gakuen University in Japan, Tianjin University of Science and Technology in China, and Albert Schweitzer International University. Among his publications are *A Plea for a New Civilization*, *Nuclear Energy and Japan's Sickness* and *Japan Faced with the Dawning of a Historic Crisis*. He also published a booklet entitled *Warnings for the Current Civilization* in Chinese and Japanese in 2006.



### **Preeta Bansal**

Preeta Bansal has worked at the intersection of top-level US government, law, public policy, academia, and global business. She served President Obama as general counsel and senior policy advisor in the White House, and previously was Solicitor General of the State of New York. A graduate of Harvard-Radcliffe College and Harvard Law School, she currently is President of Social Emergence Corporation, a not-for-profit entity, and is a Lecturer at MIT. From 2015-2016, she served by appointment of President Obama as a member and committee chair of the President's Advisory Committee on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, focusing on poverty and inequality in America.

## **Session 2**



### **Wendy Craig-Purcell**

Rev. Wendy Craig-Purcell, Spiritual Leader, Author and Speaker, is the founder of The Unity Center in San Diego, California. She is the author of *Ask Yourself This! Questions to Open the Heart, Expand the Mind and Awaken the Soul*. Ordained in 1980 at age 23, Wendy is an internationally recognized speaker and co-host of the Synthesis Dialogues convened by His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. She assisted in the planning of "The Abraham Path" in partnership with the Harvard Negotiation Project. Her service awards include the Gandhi Non- Violence Award and induction into the Martin Luther King Jr. Preachers Hall of Fame.

[www.wendycraigpurcell.com](http://www.wendycraigpurcell.com)



### **Gary Zukav**

Gary Zukav is the author of four *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Seat of the Soul*, which was on the bestseller list for three years, thirty-one times as the Number One bestseller. His first book, *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics*, won the American Book Award for Science. His books have sold six million copies and been translated into thirty languages. Mr. Zukav is a Harvard graduate, a former U.S. Army Green Beret officer with Vietnam service, a co-founder of the Seat of the Soul Institute with Linda Francis, and a grandfather.

[www.seatofthesoul.com](http://www.seatofthesoul.com)

**Raymond A. Moody**

Dr. Raymond Moody is a world-renowned scholar and researcher and the leading authority on the 'near-death experience'—a phrase he coined in the 1970s. He is a dynamic lecturer, presenter, and bestselling author of 12 books including *Life After Life* and *Reunions*, along with numerous articles in academic and professional literature. His newest book, *Glimpses of Eternity*, reveals the common events of shared-death experiences. Dr. Moody also trains medical professionals on matters of grief recovery and dying. He received the World Humanitarian Award in Denmark in 1988, and was honored at the New York Film Festival for the movie version of *Life After Life*.  
[www.lifeafterlife.com](http://www.lifeafterlife.com)

**Joserra González**

Joserra González is a generosity entrepreneur, a meditator and an activist for the common good. He believes the main cause of human suffering lies in the heart, and so in the heart lies its solution—that in awakening a heart of service, we can regenerate ourselves, societies and nature. He stands for the power of community, consciousness and celebration as the means and the goals for human betterment and happiness, and he promotes it all through spaces like *Awakin Circles*, *Karma Kitchen* and three-day Head, Heart and Hands retreats, where people explore what it means to be of service with the lenses of inner transformation.

**Domen Kočevár**

Domen Kočevár studied sociology and theology at the University of Maribor, and is currently working on his PhD thesis, "One Humanity". He is a founder and director of the Theosophical Library of Alma M. Karlin, which is a place of exploration towards a needed new paradigm, with writings on all religions, spiritual paths, and approaches to philosophy, sociology, new science, economy, and community living. He is a bishop in the Liberal Catholic tradition, with many years of western esoteric schooling. At present he is part of the team establishing an educational peace institute in Auschwitz-Oswiecim, Poland, oriented towards recognizing the One Humanity and the qualities and values coming from that recognition. [www.jivatma.si/en](http://www.jivatma.si/en)



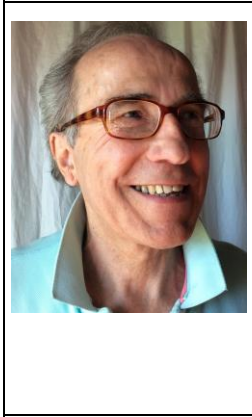


**Toku Takahashi**

After earning a MD from Kobe University, Dr. Toku Takahashi worked at University of Michigan as research scientist and at Duke University as professor. He is currently Professor at Medical College of Wisconsin. His main research interest is integrative medicine and physiological role of oxytocin. Oxytocin, a neuropeptide produced at the hypothalamus, plays an important role in regulating social behavior and positive social interactions among humans. He asserts that oxytocin is key to maintaining our communities healthy and loving. He is the author of several books including *Physiology of Love* and *Integrative Medicine: Its Role for Our Future Medicine*.  
<https://kenkodojoclinictoku.wordpress.com>

**Suzue Miuchi**

Suzue Miuchi is a Japanese *mangaka* (cartoonist) and author of the feature-length *shōjo manga* (comic for young women) *Glass Mask* (*Garasu no Kamen*). She was born in Nishinomiya, Japan and grew up in Osaka. She won the Kodansha Manga Award (1982) for *Youkihi-den*, and the Japan Cartoonists Association Award (1995). Ms. Miuchi began to work on *Glass Mask* in 1976, and as of 2014, the collected 49 volumes had sold 50 million copies in Japan, making it the second best-selling *shōjo manga* ever. The story has been made into a TV series, as well as a stage production.



	<p><b>Alan Briskin</b></p> <p>Dr. Alan Briskin is an award-winning author, artist, and pioneer in the field of organizational learning. As a consultant for over 30 years, he has helped groups and organizations apply practical wisdom and a learning orientation to complex issues of organizational change and transition. He is passionate about creating the conditions for groups and whole systems to enlarge their capacity for collective wisdom. Dr. Briskin's published works include <i>The Power of Collective Wisdom</i>, <i>The Stirring of Soul in the Workplace</i>, and <i>Daily Miracles: Stories of Humanity and Excellence in Health Care</i>. He has been a major contributor to the framing and understanding of Collective Wisdom as a discipline. <a href="http://www.alanbriskin.com">www.alanbriskin.com</a></p>
<p><b>Session 3</b></p>	
	<p><b>Sally Ann Ranney</b></p> <p>Sally Ann Ranney has forty years' experience in the environmental, energy and climate change fields. She is President/Co-Founder of the American Renewable Energy Institute (AREI), Co-Founder of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) and CEO of Stillwater Preservation, LLC, a wetlands mitigation banking company. Sally serves as a Patron of Nature for the IUCN and the board of the Climate Accountability Institute. She has worked with three U.S. Presidents, including President Reagan, who appointed her to his Commission on American Outdoors. Recognitions include the Horace Albright Award, the International Conservation Award, Earth Guardians' Earth Stewardship Award, and American Riviera Woman Entrepreneur of the Year (ARWEY) Award. <a href="http://www.sallyranney.com">www.sallyranney.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Sesto Giovanni Castagnoli</b></p> <p>Sesto Giovanni Castagnoli calls himself an 'evolutant' and a world citizen. He has broad experience as an international entrepreneur, development consultant and spiritual bridge builder. He advises companies and individuals and gives lectures and workshops on issues of Spirituality in Business Life, Natural Economic and Financial Systems, Mutual Understanding of Cultures and Religions, the Noosphere and other topics related to consciousness change. He is co-founder and founding president of the World Spirit Forum. In 2014 he initiated the YES Initiative to reduce youth unemployment globally. In February 2016 Sesto and his wife Gabriele started an unlimited pilgrimage into society after having given away all their possessions. <a href="http://www.evolutant.com">www.evolutant.com</a> <a href="http://www.thegreenpilgrims.ch/english">www.thegreenpilgrims.ch/english</a></p>
	<p><b>Izumi Masukawa</b></p> <p>Dr. Izumi Masukawa acquired a doctorate in nutrition and bio-electronics from Michigan State University (USA). As director of the American Micro Cluster Lab, she researched unique methods of water treatment, such as electromagnetic resonance, and participated in product development of natural medical supplies and cosmetics. In 2001, she established two companies, Tecno AO Asia and Universal Balance. Her fields of study include bio-polymer science, marine biology, geology, mineralogy, and herbal medicine. Recently she is interested in the mysteries of sounds, and is exploring the connection between sound, the universe and human beings. She is the author of several books including <i>Life Tuning</i>, <i>Water Sound Image</i>, and <i>Water is Intelligent Life</i>.</p>
	<p><b>Wakako Hironaka</b></p> <p>Wakako Hironaka is a former Member of the Japanese House of Councilors (upper house of the legislature), a former Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Japan, and a former Minister of the Environment. She has served as Chair of GLOBE Japan, Member of the Earth Charter Initiative, Chair of the Earth Water and Green Foundation, and Member of the International Senior Advisory Board of UNESCO, among others. In 1987 she received an Honorary Doctorate from Brandeis University in the USA. She was also awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from Emperor Akihito in November 2010.</p>



#### **David Leal Garcia**

David Leal is a Spanish facilitator, conflict mediator and professor specialized in conducting processes of participation and change in organizations, communities and businesses. Since his early teens he has developed a passion for the history, culture and language of Japan. He is currently doing a PhD in Sociology, developing tools to boost creativity and meaningful dialogue in large groups of people, both face to face and online. Through vocational coaching and dream development workshops, he supports individuals and organizations in realizing, sharing and expanding their unique gifts to the world, in the conviction that a creative, contribution-oriented life is the gateway to inner and outer peace.

### **Session 4**



#### **Maki Saionji Kawamura**

Maki Saionji Kawamura is Executive Director of the Goi Peace Foundation and Vice-President of Byakko Shinko Kai. Born in Japan, she spent her junior and senior high school days in the US and Germany. Maki graduated from Tokai University School of Medicine, and received her clinical training at Mie University Hospital, Suzuka General Hospital and Jikei University Hospital pediatrics department. In her current position, Maki is engaged in international exchange activities and offers lectures and workshops with a belief that there is a divine spark in every human being, and that by nurturing a sense of oneness with all life, we can co-create a peaceful world that respects diverse values.



#### **Shamima Amin**

Samima Amin is Chief Operating Officer at Yunus Creative Lab, Inc. Before this, she served as Chief of Staff of Tuskegee University. Prior to joining Tuskegee, she had over 17 years of executive-level experience covering all aspects of administration. She attended the University of Dhaka, the University of Florida, Atlanta University and Harvard University, and received an MLIS, as well as educational and leadership training. She was the chief coordinator of the Opportunity Funding Corporation's Innovation and Entrepreneurship conference. Shamima has served on numerous national committees and non-profit boards. She has been included in *Who's Who in America* and *International Who's Who of Professional Management*.



#### **Sam Beard**

The non-profit organization GIFT (Global Investment Foundation for Tomorrow) is the vision of Sam Beard, who has spent over a half century transforming ideas into impact, through tenacity and grassroots leadership. He has created and implemented programs for eight U.S. presidents, from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama. Among his most noteworthy accomplishments is the creation of over ten million jobs in low-income communities. The inspiration for GIFT came out of Beard's experience in using mindfulness to deal with a high stress period in recent years. He was excited at the far-reaching impact it had in improving all aspects of his life. [www.sambeard.org](http://www.sambeard.org) [www.sambeardgift.org](http://www.sambeardgift.org)



#### **Gabriele Castagnoli**

Practising Naikan, a Japanese introspective method, inspired Gabriele Castagnoli to bring her life's journey into accordance with her work. She quit her marketing career in 2004, and after joining the World Spirit Forum in Switzerland in 2005, she married its co-founder, Sesto Castagnoli, and organized the event with him until 2009. In 2010 she founded 'oralab—develop mutually' to pursue her passion for 'individual and collective development between the poles of cosmos, man and culture', working with groups of individuals and organizations. She moderates and speaks at conferences, and designs and moderates cultural events. She writes about 'her' topics and the 'pilgrimage into society' that she and Sesto started in 2016. [www.oralab.ch/english](http://www.oralab.ch/english) [www.thegreenpilgrims.ch/english](http://www.thegreenpilgrims.ch/english)



#### **Tomoyo Nonaka**

Tomoyo Nonaka established the NPO Gaia Initiative in 2007. Presently, she is a committee member of the Japanese Ministry of Finance and an advisor for the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. She has held various positions, including Chairperson of the Japan Photovoltaic Energy Association, Executive Director and Chairperson of Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd, Director of Asahi Breweries Ltd, and Chairperson of Nikko Financial Intelligence. From 1979 to 1996 she was an anchor for TV programs on NHK and TV Tokyo. She has a Masters degree in Journalism, and is an honorary member of the Club of Budapest and a member of the Club of Rome.



#### **Parag Shah**

Parag Shan, 49, has spent most of his active adult life in leading his family-owned business under the banner K. Girdharlal International Pvt. Ltd. This organization is engaged in the manufacturing of diamonds in India and in distribution at the global level. Mr. Shah is also a co-founder of Fountainhead School, in Surat, India, which is affiliated with the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. For the last five years, Mr. Shah has been an active volunteer with ServiceSpace, spending his time volunteering to implement different projects throughout the year.

[www.kgirdharlal.com](http://www.kgirdharlal.com) [www.fountainheadschoools.org](http://www.fountainheadschoools.org)

### **Session 5**



#### **Hafsat Abiola-Costello**

Through her nonprofit organization, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), Hafsat Abiola-Costello is developing a rising generation of women leaders in Nigeria. From the age of 19, she has been stirring up activism, fueling movements for democracy, gender equality and women's leadership. Her life's work is a tribute to her parents, who fought and died for their pro-democracy activism. Hafsat was making dangerous trips to areas targeted by Boko Haram long before the extremist group made headlines. She currently serves as a cabinet member and Special Adviser of the Ogun State government. She is also a councilor of the World Future Council and co-chair of the Future Justice Commission.

[www.kind.org](http://www.kind.org)



#### **Momoyo Ise**

Momoyo Ise is the first executive director of the United Nations University (UNU) and President of the Association of Former International Civil Servants - Japan. After graduating from Keio University in 1959, she obtained a Master's degree in sociology at Syracuse University and a Master's degree in urban planning at Columbia University. After working at the United Nations Headquarters covering issues related to economic and social development, she was appointed the First Executive Director of the UNU. She then became Director of the Office of Human Resources Management at the UN. She also served as Executive Director of the Asian Women's Fund.



#### **Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan**

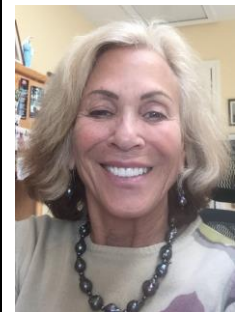
With over 30 years of experience in the corporate, academic, international, and non-profit sectors, Dr. Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan is a former candidate for US Congress from Georgia's 6th District and an expert in organizing entrepreneurship conferences and business plan competitions. He came to America from Bangladesh as a graduate student in 1986 to attend Georgia State University. He received a Ph.D. degree in economics/trade, two MBA degrees (one from Indian Institute of Management – Bangalore), and advanced leadership training from Harvard and MIT. An outstanding fundraiser and external relationship builder, Dr. Bhuiyan has been named in Marquis' *Who's Who in the World* and *Who's Who in America*.





### **Sumiko Iwao**

After earning a Ph.D. from Yale University, Dr. Sumiko Iwao taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and was a research associate in Harvard's Laboratory of Human Development. She is currently Professor Emeritus at Keio University and Tokyo City University. She has held numerous advisory positions in the Japanese government including chair of the Gender Equality Council, and since 2008, she has been operating microfinance projects to help poor women in Tanzania. She founded Sakura Girls Secondary School, which operates in a Maasai village, providing educational opportunities to girls from underprivileged backgrounds. Ms. Iwao is the author of *The Japanese Women: Traditional Image and Changing Reality*.



### **Nina Meyerhof**

Dr. Nina Meyerhof is President of Children of the Earth, a renowned organization that awakens young people to their inner leadership. She is co-author of *Conscious Education: The Bridge to Freedom* and author of the handbook *Pioneering Spiritual Activism*. She has received several awards for her work, including the Mother Theresa Award, the Citizens Department of Peace Award, the International Educators Award, and the Sage Award. Dr. Meyerhof advocates going beyond cultural, ethnic and religious differences to strive for unity. Presently she is working with colleagues to establish an Institute for Sustainable Peace in the town of Auschwitz-Oswiecim, Poland. [www.coeworld.org](http://www.coeworld.org)

## **Guests**



### **Ameeta Bansal Martin**

Ameeta Bansal Martin, MD, is a pediatric cardiologist and businesswoman in Lincoln, Nebraska (a city of over 250,000 people). As the only pediatric cardiologist in the community for the past 25 years, she has directly impacted the care of thousands of babies and children in the area. She brings mindfulness into her practice and is exploring ways of introducing circle groups and integrated healing practices among the children in her community.



### **Mita Shah**

Mita Shah, 46, is a designer of ethnic wear, and runs her own designing studio. She is also a co-founder of an NGO called Zumbish, which engages, on day to day basis, with underprivileged children of local government schools. The first half of her day is spent with children at a school, and second half at her studio. Her sole purpose and drive in running the designing studio is to create financial resources to support her NGO. At heart, she has dedicated her life to serve the under-privileged children of our society.



### **Akiko Domoto**

Akiko Domoto is a former Member of the Japanese House of Councilors and Governor of Chiba Prefecture. She is President and Coordinator of the Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction. Ms. Domoto began her career in the 1960s as a television journalist and producer. Following her election to the Upper House of Japan's Diet in 1989, she played a pivotal role in the drafting of landmark social legislation and was an active participant in inter-parliamentary bodies. Since leaving the political sphere, she has dedicated herself to issues such as the environment, disasters, and women prisoners, with attention to human rights, gender equality, and diversity.

**Fujiko Hara**

Fujiko Hara has been an interpreter and teacher of interpreting for over twenty-five years. She is a member of AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters). Her work has included G-7 Economic Summits, InterAction Council meetings of former heads of state and government, the World Economic Forum, and top-level conferences and negotiations worldwide in all major fields. She is the granddaughter of Yukio Ozaki, a former mayor of Tokyo who presented Japanese flowering cherry trees to Washington, DC., and she is now a managing director of the Ozaki Yukio Memorial Foundation.

**Miyuki Hatoyama**

Miyuki Hatoyama is the wife of Yukio Hatoyama, Japan's 93rd Prime Minister. After a brief career as an actress in theater and television, she moved to the U.S. and married Mr. Hatoyama. After ten years, the family returned to Japan, where Miyuki supported her husband's political career. Her cooking, already enjoyed by so many in the States, began to gain popularity in Japan, and she authored her own cookbooks. She has since established herself as a "life composer," or lifestyle consultant. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, she has held lectures called 'Miyuki-ryu' to enrich people's lives and explore the meaning of being here and now.

**Remi Ie**

After returning to Japan from Stanford University, Remi Ie started a private consulting firm focusing on Community Empowerment Design, assisting regional governments and corporations in Japan and overseas. In 2012, she became Ambassador of Japan for the GNH Center of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan commissioned by the Prime Minister of Bhutan. In 2015, she acquired a Masters Degree from the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy, and after graduation, she was appointed as the Director of Japan for Slow Food International. She focuses on collaboration between regional governments, corporations and educational institutions, promoting Japanese food heritage as well as sustainable development.

**Minako Imada**

Minako Imada is a pioneer in the art of etiquette and table setting in Japan. After studying at a number of national cooking schools and hotels in Europe, she opened the "Salon de L'Art de la Table de Minako Imada," covering topics from table settings and etiquette to baking. She has received numerous awards throughout her career, including the first ever award given by the French government for table setting, and gold medals from Swiss and German national patisseries. She is President of the International Table Art Academy Association. In 2009, her "Salon de Muse Imada Minako" tea room opened at the upscale Takashimaya department store in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

**Keiko Itokazu**

Keiko Itokazu is a member the Japanese House of Councilors. Born in Okinawa and raised under U.S. occupation, she started working as a bus tour guide. She was elected as a member of Okinawa Prefectural Assembly in 1992 and served three consecutive terms. She was first elected to the House of Councilors in 2004. She delivered a speech during the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.



**Yoshiko Mitsui**

Yoshiko Mitsui is Chairperson of the Special Olympics Nippon Foundation and Chairperson of the Yamagata Symphony Orchestra. While studying at Kobe City University, she got married and devoted herself to supporting her family. Since 1994, she has been involved in the Special Olympics (SO). She has made efforts to establish SO branch offices throughout Japan, as well as to turn SO Nippon into a public interest incorporated foundation. At the same time, she has contributed to its global activities as a board member of SO International. In 2017, the Japanese Para-Sports Association commended her for her outstanding achievements in support of people with intellectual disabilities.



