

Yukio OKAMOTO, a former Special Advisor to two Prime Ministers of Japan, is the President of Okamoto Associates and a Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow at MIT.

From 1968 to 1991 Mr. Okamoto was a career diplomat in Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His overseas postings were at Paris, Cairo and Washington. He retired from the Ministry in 1991 and established Okamoto Associates Inc., a political and economic consultancy.

Post-retirement, Mr. Okamoto has served in a number of advisory positions. From 1996 to 1998, he was a Special Advisor to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. From 2001 to 2004, he was again a Special Advisor to Prime Minister Jun-ichiro Koizumi, also serving as the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Okamoto is a visiting professor of international relations at Ritsumeikan University as well as Tohoku University. He sits on the Board of Directors of Mitsubishi Materials, NYK and NTT DATA. He is also serving as an Advisor to several major Japanese multinationals. He is the president of Shingen'eki Net, a non-profit group for active seniors with 16,000 members.

Mr. Okamoto is the Founder of the Signal of Hope Fund, an initiative he established to assist the Tohoku fisheries industry to recover from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Mr. Okamoto has written many books on Japanese diplomacy and is a regular contributor to major newspapers and magazines. He is a very well-known public speaker and a frequent guest on public affairs and news television programs.