

Co-organized by
Global Compact Network Japan, Business and Human Rights Lawyers Network Japan,
Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, and Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Engagement and Remedy Forum for Responsible Business Conduct 2021

Day: 13:00~17:00 26th Feb. 2021

*1st Session 13:00-15:00 2nd Session 15:10-17:00

Place: Zoom Online Meeting

*Free Registration, 500 Participants Max, Japanese/English Simultaneous Translation will be provided.

In December 2019, the “[Engagement & Remedy Guidelines](#)” was published by the Global Compact Network Japan (GCNJ) and the Business and Human Rights Lawyers Network Japan (BHR Lawyers). The aim of the Guidelines is to promote a constructive dialogue between business enterprises and the society, to enhance grievance mechanisms, and to ensure access to remedy. As a launch event, the Symposium “[Towards Promotion of Responsible Business Conduct and Supply Chains](#)” was co-organized by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the above two organizations last February. In this Symposium, the need to develop grievance mechanisms in line with the Engagement & Remedy Guidelines was recognized among the participants. This was based on the fact that Japanese business have still to promote access to remedy, which is one of the three pillars of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The purpose of this Forum is to maintain and enhance this momentum which was established through the above Symposium. After last year’s Symposium, there were two major developments. The first one is that the Japanese Government launched the “**National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2020-2025)**” (NAP) in October 2020. The other development is that the “**Engagement and Remedy Project**” which aims to implement the Engagement & Remedy Guidelines, especially the Grievance Center Guideline, was launched by the co-organizers of this Forum. This Forum provides the latest findings and good practices about grievance mechanisms in and outside of Japan, as well as discusses the roles that the NAP and the Engagement & Remedy Project will play in terms of promoting grievance mechanisms.

In this Forum, we invite **Professor John Ruggie**, *former UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises* for the keynote address. We also invite **Mr. Mikito Toyama**, *director of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. Moreover, we invite distinguished panelists and commentators for this event. We look forward to your attendance.

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0aS7WUSxSICANgZaAJOLTA

*If you have any inquiries, please contact the Engagement & Remedy Forum Secretariat at (a-ueda@spf.or.jp).

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Program

Opening Remarks	13:00-13:10	Dr. Atsushi Sunami (President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation)
High-level Session “Role of Grievance Mechanisms -Towards the Implementation of Engagement and Remedy Guidelines” Moderators: Mr. Keiichi Ujiie(GCNP), Mr. Daisuke Takahashi(BHR Lawyers)		
Keynote Address	13:10-13:50	Prof. John Ruggie (Harvard University, Arabesque Group) “Grievance Mechanisms in the UN Guiding Principles”(Video Message)
Special Report	13:50-14:10	Mr. Sakon Kuramoto(BHR Lawyers) “Updates and Future Plans on Engagement and Remedy Guidelines”
Guest Report	14:10-14:25	Mr. Mikito Toyama (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) “Access to Remedy in the NAP and Expectations for Business”
Comments Q&A	14:25-15:00	“Expectations for Initiatives based on Engagement and Remedy Guidelines” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nicolas Hachez, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct (Video Message) • Mr. Ryosuke Tanaka, ILO Office for Japan • Mr. Toshio Shikata, Fuji Oil Group • Ms. Miyuki Zeniya, Dai-ichi Life Insurance • Mr. Shoichi Ibusuki, Lawyers Network for Foreign Workers
Break	15:00-15:10	
Panel Discussion(15:10–17:00) “Towards the Formation of a Platform for Engagement & Remedy” Moderator: Dr. Akihiro Ueda (Sasakawa Peace Foundation)		
Panel Presentation & Discussion	15:10-16:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Akiko Sato, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre • Dr. Patricia Waagstein, University of Indonesia • Mr. Theo Jaekl, Ericsson. • Mr. Yozo Nakao, Ajinomoto • Ms. Ka Ea Lim, Responsible Business Alliance (tbc)
Q&A	16:25-16:55	
Closing Remarks	16:55-17:00	Mr. Makoto Saito, Steering Committee Officer, BHR Lawyers