

For Immediate Release

Venture Café Tokyo to Launch at Toranomom Hills in March

—Cambridge Innovation Center’s global venture-creation program to enter Asian market and strengthen Toranomom Hills’ role as a business-innovation hub—

Tokyo, March 6, 2018 — Mori Building, a leading urban developer in Tokyo, announced today that it is collaborating with Venture Café, an innovation promotion program developed by Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC), the world’s leading builder of innovation hubs, to help expand its global network into Asia. Starting on March 22, Venture Café Tokyo will launch its “Thursday Gathering” weekly program at Toranomom Hills, Mori Building’s newest mixed-use complex in Tokyo.



Venture Café, launched by CIC



Thursday Gathering

Venture Café was launched in 2009 by CIC as a global movement to build innovation ecosystems by matching innovators and investors around the world. So far, nonprofit members of the Venture Café Global Network have been hosting casual open events to gather innovators and to promote innovation development in five cities across the U.S. and Europe. About 250,000 innovators have participated in events held at CIC co-working spaces, which have served as homes for over 4,000 startups and venture companies to date. Venture Café Tokyo is headed by Dr. Yasuhiro Yamakawa, a lifelong entrepreneur and tenured entrepreneurship professor at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Mori Building is sponsoring the nonprofit Venture Café Tokyo as part of its vision to transform Toranomom Hills and the surrounding community into a new global business hub. Mori Building’s comprehensive redevelopment of central Tokyo’s Toranomom area includes the construction of three mixed-use towers integrated with a new subway station. Going forward, Toranomom Hills is expected to become the focal point of a dynamic community where private, public and academic innovators and other diverse players collaborate on new ideas and new businesses, and thereby strengthen Tokyo’s magnetism as a whole.

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About Mori Building

Mori Building is an innovative urban developer based in Tokyo. The company is committed to maximizing the magnetic power of cities by creating and nurturing safe, sustainable and cosmopolitan urban centers based on its unique Vertical Garden City concept of high-rise centers for business, education, leisure and residence. The concept is applied in the company's many leading-edge projects, including ARK Hills, Roppongi Hills and Toranomon Hills in Tokyo and the Shanghai World Financial Center. Mori Building is also engaged in real estate leasing, project management and consultation. Please visit www.mori.co.jp/en

About Venture Cafe

Venture Café's mission is to connect innovators to make things happen. Conceived in 2007 and launched in 2009 by the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC), Venture Café is now a global movement of local nonprofits working to build stronger and more inclusive innovation ecosystems and accelerate and enhance the innovation process, in cities around the world. It does this through its use of programming, physical spaces, storytelling, and broad innovation engagement. There are currently six Venture Cafe members, comprising the Venture Cafe Global Network, with several more in development around the world.



About Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC)

CIC builds and operates innovation hubs around the world. Each hub typically houses hundreds of technology-driven startup companies, shared laboratories, and other innovation facilities. Its mission is to “fix the world through innovation”, by helping create powerful innovation ecosystems. It does this by helping innovators and entrepreneurs launch new ventures quickly and efficiently, giving them a resource-rich environment in which to succeed. The center serves approximately 1,400 companies across seven buildings in Cambridge, Boston, St. Louis, Rotterdam (the Netherlands) and Miami (and more on sites on the way!). Its mission is to change the world through innovation by developing innovation ecosystems that enable exceptional entrepreneurs to create new products and companies better and faster. It does this by creating world-class infrastructure and programming for innovators, including high-quality, flexible office space; shared wet-lab facilities; public, civic innovation spaces; and targeted initiatives to help entrepreneurs grow their companies.



■ Overview of Venture Café Tokyo

- Management: Venture Café Tokyo
- Support: Venture Café Global Institute (VCGI)
- Director: Dr. Yasuhiro Yamakawa
- Venue: Toranomon Hills Café (Toranomon Hills Mori Tower, 2 fl., 1-23-3 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo)
- Main activity: Hosting weekly Thursday Gatherings

Yasuhiro Yamakawa (Representative Director, Venture Café Tokyo)

“It is a great honor and pleasure to take on the leadership role to spearhead the efforts of bringing entrepreneurial mindset to Japanese business and society. In particular, I hope to cultivate the positive growth mindset to help better the societal perception and its tolerance for failure.”



Travis Sheridan (President, Venture Café Global Institute)

“We are thrilled to officially have our first launch in Asia by welcoming Venture Café Tokyo into our growing network of global Venture Cafés. We look forward to working together to strengthen ongoing innovation efforts in Tokyo to become one of the strongest innovation gateway cities in the region and the world.”



Thursday Gathering Inaugural Events

March 22 (Thurs) 19:00-21:00

- Session 1 19:00-19:40 Presentation
Yasuhiro Yamakawa (Representative Director, Venture Café Tokyo)
- Session 2 19:50-20:30 Panel discussion: "Innovation in Tokyo"
Takaaki Umezawa (Managing Director, A.T. Kearney Japan)
Yoshiaki Ishii (Director, METI)
Sachiko Wada (CEO, Taskaji)
Kyoko Nakagami (Representative Director, Bizjapan) and others
- Networking 20:30-21:00 Social gathering



Takaaki Umezawa



Sachiko Wada

March 29 (Thurs) 15:15-20:00

- Session 1 15:15-17:00 Panel Discussion: "Innovation from Japanese corporations"
George Aida (Representative, 01 Booster)
Takahiro Sugano (CEO, MiRaY School)
- Networking 17:00-18:00 Social gathering
- Session 3 18:00-19:00 Presentation: "Business Opportunities in Japan for the coming age"
Student at Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
- Session 4 19:00-20:00 Presentation: "Cultivating the entrepreneurial mindset"
Yasuhiro Yamakawa (Representative Director, Venture Café Tokyo)



George Aida



Yasuhiro Yamakawa

Reference

Toranomon Hills' Evolution as a Global Business Hub

Mori Building is transforming Tokyo's Toranomon area with a series of large-scale redevelopment projects, first with the Toranomon Hills Mori Tower, a mixed-use building that was completed as Tokyo's tallest skyscraper in 2014. Two current projects are the construction of Toranomon Hills Business Tower*, a state-of-the-art office building to be completed in December 2019, and Toranomon Hills Residential Tower*, an ultramodern residential building to be completed in April 2020.

Mori Building is also developing Toranomon Hills Station Tower*, a multi-use skyscraper that will be integrated with Toranomon New Station* on the Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line, which will begin partial service in 2020.



Upon completion, the total area of the Toranomon Hills complex will reach about 7.5 hectares, including the four Toranomon Hills towers, new transport station, roads and green spaces. The facilities will offer 800,000m² of floor space, including 300,000m² for offices, 26,000m² for retail, 15,000 m² of greenery and about 720 residences.

The ultimate goal of Mori Building's Toranomon Hills redevelopment project is to transform the area into a vibrant global hub that entices individuals and enterprises worldwide to live, work and relax in Toranomon, replicating the Mori Building Roppongi Hills complex's dramatic transformation of Tokyo's Roppongi community.

New Centers for Business Innovation

One of the many attractions of Toranomon Hills Business Tower* will be its 3,000m² Innovation Center on the fourth floor, serving as a center of exchange between large companies and new ventures. The center aims to support the creation of new businesses by providing a salon where entrepreneurs and executives of large companies can get together, as well as event spaces to foster innovation.

Also, Toranomon Hills Station Tower* will offer a similar facility on its top floor to welcome diverse innovators from large enterprises to small startups, as well as entrepreneurs, investors and members of the general community for innovation and business development.



Rendition of Innovation Center

*NOTE: Tentative name