

Innovative City Forum 2021 to Consider New Possibilities for Urban Designs and Lifestyles

Tokyo, October 29, 2021 — Mori Art Museum, Academyhills operated by Mori Building Co., Ltd., and the Mori Memorial Foundation’s Institute for Urban Strategies announced today the schedule for Innovative City Forum (ICF) 2021, an international forum held annually to consider new possibilities for urban designs and lifestyles based on the fundamental question “What will our lives be like 20 years from now?” ICF 2021 will take place both in person at Roppongi Academyhills (49th floor, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower) and online, from November 22 to 25.

Since 2013, ICF has brought together leading scientists, researchers, engineers, artists, designers, corporate managers and journalists from diverse fields, both from Japan and abroad, to discuss their visions of lifestyles in the future and the cities that will serve as the foundations of such lifestyles. In total, 409 speakers and nearly 16,000 people have attended the annual forums.

In this ninth edition of ICF, the speakers will consider the theme “Alternative Visions – Contemplating a New Future, Now” by examining contemporary lifestyles and kind of future that will be possible following the pandemic. The keynote address will be delivered online by noted historian Dr. Emmanuel Todd, who has used demographic data to predict major events in history including the collapse of the Soviet Union, Britain's exit from the European Union and the birth of the Trump administration. He also is the author of the best-selling book “After the Empire: The Breakdown of the American Order.”



Dr. Emmanuel Todd

The ICF 2021 agenda will also include joint sessions involving personnel from the Japan Science and Technology Agency Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (JST, RISTEX), Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) and the Tokyo leisure publication *Time Out Tokyo*, as well breakout sessions in which experts from fields including art, tourism, economics and technology will meet in person to discuss their visions of the future.

Mori Building collaborates with leading research institutes, universities and enterprises to jointly research urban concepts, often by using Roppongi Hills and other Hills-brand urban complexes as test platforms. Mori Building is committed to exploring possibilities for ideal cities and lifestyles and pursuing urban development that leads to new innovation, ultimately to contribute to Tokyo’s magnetic power as a major global city.

Innovative City Forum 2021 Event Outline

Dates:	Monday, Nov. 22 – Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021
Format:	In-person and live talks with Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation
Fee:	No charge for online viewing but pre-registration is required at http://icf.academyhills.com (in-person attendance on Nov. 25 by invitation only)
Organizers:	Institute of Urban Strategies , The Mori Memorial Foundation , Mori Art Museum and Academyhills
Co-organizer:	The Japan Foundation Asia Center
Collaborators:	Japan Science and Technology Agency Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (JST, RISTEX) and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)
Media partner:	Time Out Tokyo
General Support:	The Japan Foundation, DENTSU YOUTH STUDY, International House of Japan, Culture Vision Japan, and Japan Association of New Economy
Gov’t. support:	Embassy of Japan in France and Institut français du Japon
Official website:	https://icf.academyhills.com/en/ (launching soon)
YouTube channel:	https://www.youtube.com/user/InnovativeCityForum

ICF 2021 Breakout Sessions



Visions of Work – What is Work and How Will Remote Work Transform Society?

Daiji Kawaguchi

Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy and Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo

Covid-19 has brought about the rapid spread of remote work. The trend, which is sure to continue, will not only alter how people work but also drastically change lifestyles and society. But many Japanese firms have not yet revised their understanding of “work” and “labor” due to difficulties in changing how they manage and evaluate employees. This session will focus on how views of work are changing among individuals and how companies must adapt to this societal transformation.



Visions of Learning – Creativity Needed in the Future

Eisuke Tachikawa, Representative, NOSIGNER / Design Strategist

People feel the need for learning and education to improve their lives and move society in better directions. But rather than focus just on compulsory education, adult learning is gaining importance as we shift towards the 100-year life. In an age where there are no “right answers,” people must take on new challenges and create new value and new potential. It is difficult to nurture creativity with conventional learning, so we need new approaches. This session will examine educational creativity and new forms of learning in the context of how individuals relate to society and business.



Visions of Trust – New Relationships among Art, Markets and Empathy

Ai Koike, Representative Partner, GO FUND, LLP GP

Humankind has depended on trusting others to develop communities, societies and nations. Today, information exchange also involves nonhumans including animals, plants, viruses, robots and AI. Art has played a major role in building empathy between strangers, but to understand the roots of trust—understanding and empathy—we will consider diversifying art forms including media art, digital art and non-fungible tokens as well as how to measure new values, empathy and trust.



Visions of the Urban Future – Redefining the Values of Distance and Density

Masaki Hamura, Partner & Associate Director, Boston Consulting Group

Advancements of the knowledge economy have encouraged physical proximity to enhance creativity, and consequently led to more compact urban functions in major cities worldwide. The pandemic, however, is restricting urban activities and shifting workstyles to the Internet. In this session, we will consider post-pandemic cities from broad perspectives, including urban architecture, science, and art.



Visions of Economics – Wealth or Wellbeing? A Look at Development, Growth and Sustainability

Makiko Nakamuro, Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University

Many feel uneasy about capitalist economies predicated on mass production/consumption/disposal and concentrating prosperity in the hands of a well-off minority. And yet during the pandemic, declining consumption hampered the economy and pushed many into poverty. Everyone wants to protect their way of living, but we need to elevate wellbeing for society as a whole. This session will address the economy, with a focus on development/growth and sustainability. We also will contemplate what sort of economic system can be sustainable and lead to individual wellbeing.



Visions of Tourism – The New Relationship between the Value of Experience and Consumption

Arina Tsukada, Editor and Curator

The meaning of space is being transformed by virtual reality overlapping real space. The pandemic is restricting human movements and gatherings and the resulting decentralization may lead to new forms of tourism. Tourism, once said to be the opposite of labor, is being blurred by industry and lifestyle transformation, including remote work and workations. How will the dynamic interplay between virtual and real, labor and leisure, and density and dispersion further alter tourism?

ICF 2021 Program Committee



Heizo Takenaka



Fumio Nanjo



Hiroo Ichikawa

Heizo Takenaka: Professor Emeritus, Keio University; Chairman, Institute for Urban Strategies, The Mori Memorial Foundation; Director, Academyhills; Former Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy; and Board of Trustee, The World Economic Forum

Hiroo Ichikawa: Professor Emeritus, Meiji University; Professor, Teikyo University; Executive Director, The Mori Memorial Foundation; Expert in urban policy, international urban competitiveness, crisis management and telework; and author of numerous works about Tokyo and other large metropolises

Fumio Nanjo: Senior Advisor, Mori Art Museum and formerly Deputy Director (2002-2006) and Director (Nov. 2006-2019); and affiliations with prominent cultural organizations including Japan Foundation (1978-1986)

Schedule

Date	Time	Program	Facilitator/Speaker/Collaborator
Mon., Nov. 22 (online)	19:00-21:00	Visions of Dialogue between Science and Society	Japan Science and Technology Agency of the Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (JST, RISTEX)
Tue., Nov. 23 (online)	19:00-20:30	Diversity and Inclusion Paving the Way for the Future of Japan	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)
Wed., Nov. 24 (online)	19:00-21:00	Requirements for a New Age of Tourism – Weaving happiness, folklore studies and technology into destination stories	Time Out Tokyo
Thurs., Nov. 25 (online and in-person)	13:00-13:15	Opening remarks	Heizo Takenaka, Fumio Nanjo and Ichikawa Hiroo (ICF Program Committee members)
	13:15-14:00	Keynote speech	Dr. Emmanuel Todd (moderated by Fumio Nanjo)
	14:05-14:35	Kickoff	Kumi Fujisawa, Director of breakout sessions
	14:45-15:55	Breakout sessions Visions of Work Visions of Learning Visions of Trust	Daiji Kawaguchi Eisuke Tachikawa Ai Koike
	16:10-17:20	Breakout sessions Visions of Urban Future Visions of Economics Visions of Tourism	Masaki Hamura Makiko Nakamuro Arina Tsukada
	17:30-18:00	Closing	Kumi Fujisawa, Director of breakout sessions

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