



International Policy Forum “*Political outlook for 2023*”

8:00-9:00am, Monday, 23 January 2023
(Japan Standard Time)

SPEAKERS BIO



Hideki Makihara

*Member of the House of Representative
Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP)*

Hideki Makihara (born 1971) is a native of Tokyo and a graduate from the Faculty of Law at the University of Tokyo (1995). He holds an LL.M. in International Law from Georgetown University and is a registered attorney-at-law, having passed both the Japanese and the State of New York bar exams.

Before launching his political career, Makihara interned at the Law Division of the World Trade Organization in Geneva and then worked for several law firms in the United States. In 2003, he joined the International Trade Policy Division of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), where he worked on trade negotiations and international trade disputes.

In 2005, Makihara was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time as a representative of Saitama’s 5th District, as a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He is currently serving his fifth term. He has served many governmental positions, such as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Environment (2013 – 2014), State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (2017 – 2018), and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (2019 - 2020). Within the LDP, he has served as the Director of the Environment Division, Acting Director of the Economy, Trade and Industry Division, and Deputy Secretary General, and as Director of the Health, Labour, and Welfare Division of the LDP’s Policy Research Council (2021-2022).

In September 2022, he was appointed as the Director of the House of Representatives Committee on Budget and Deputy Chair of the LDP’s Election Strategy Committee.



Jakob Edberg
President & CEO, GR Japan

Jakob Edberg has been deeply immersed in Japan's politics and policy-making for two decades. As President & CEO of GR Japan, he works and helps clients solve complex political and regulatory challenges in a large variety of sectors and fields - retail, energy, pharmaceuticals, financial services, project financing, foreign policy, and trade just to mention a few.

Before co-founding GR Japan, he was Policy Director at the European Business Council in Japan, where he supervised government outreach and advocacy for over 300 companies in 29 sector committees. He also served as a senior trade officer at the Swedish Embassy in Tokyo. Representing international businesses' interests on ministry and party committees, he has a wealth of experience with the Japanese administration and Diet, on everything from front-page trade issues and technical product standards, to successful campaigns for new legislation and financial regulation.