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Newsletter

Access FSA



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Japan Fintech Week 2024 and FIN/SUM 2024



1. Japan Fintech Week 2024

The Financial Services Agency (FSA) held the **first Japan Fintech Week 2024** as a new initiative to share the appeal of Japan's fintech landscape to a global audience and create business opportunities for further development of fintech innovation. Setting the period from March 4 (Mon) to 8 (Fri) as the core week and the 8th FIN/SUM 2024 as the core event, we aimed at providing a unified platform for fintech professionals from Japan and around the world in collaboration with a diverse array of fintech-related events organized by various entities (both public and private sectors), including during the weeks before and after that.

A total of more than 12,900 people attended the event, where fintech business professionals

from more than 50 countries and regions gathered, and the event was a great success.

Total participants:
12,900 or more

Participating countries/regions:
50 or more

Satisfaction: **85%**

Number of Related Events:
49

For the details of the event, please visit the following [special page](https://www.fsa.go.jp/policy/japanfintechweek/2024/index_en.html).

https://www.fsa.go.jp/policy/japanfintechweek/2024/index_en.html

Major Related Events and Organizers of Japan Fintech Week 2024



2. FIN/SUM 2024

The FSA and Nikkei Inc. jointly held FIN/SUM 2024, one of the largest fintech conferences in Japan, over four days from March 5 to 8, 2024. The FIN/SUM 2024, which was held for the eighth time since 2016, started with Prime Minister Kishida's welcome address (video message), and discussions were developed from various perspectives on topics such as generative AI, digital assets, regions, and insurance.



Photo: Address by Prime Minister Kishida
(Video message)

The number of unique visitors doubled from the previous time to approximately 2,700. (About 10% of the participants were from overseas, and the total number of participants was about 4,100.) It was close to the largest number of participants ever, thanks in part to the fact that the event was held simultaneously with Japan Fintech Week 2024.

New Initiatives in FIN/SUM

- FSA handles 20 sessions (double last year's number).
- A different theme was set for each day during the four-day period.
- Regional content was significantly expanded.
- Multiple roundtables were operated on a trial basis.
- FSA hoodies were prepared.



Photo: Closing address at the first day by
State Minister of Cabinet Office Ibayashi

FSA's Session (Excerpt)

- Address by Prime Minister Kishida (video message)
- Message from Minister of State for Financial Services, Suzuki (read by FSA Commissioner Kurita on behalf of him on the day)
- Fireside chat: Progress in EU Digital Asset Regulation
- Panel: How AI Envisions the Future of Finance: Beyond the Risks
- Address by State Minister of Cabinet Office Ibayashi
- Future of Digital Money, Payments and Remittances
- The Potential of Traditional Finance x Tokenization: Balancing Innovation and Ensuring Compliance
- Silicon Valley's impact on Japanese Banking: A Regional Perspective
- The Future of Local Communities Pioneered by Financial Technology



Photo: Session attended by FSA
Commissioner Kurita

Major Roundtables

- Round-table talk on Fintech and Innovation for Central Bankers in Asia powered by Bank of Japan (BOJ)
- FSA Blockchain Round-Table 2024
- Realization of Innovation through Cooperation between Regional Financial Institutions and Domestic and Overseas Fintech Companies
- How Regional Financial Institutions should Provide Startups with Funds

The Chatham House Rule* was adopted to encourage constructive discussions among stakeholders at the roundtables held on various topics, and frank and free discussions were made at the roundtables.



Photo: Discussions at Roundtables



Photo: Keynote Lecture by Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kanda

Digital Banking Transformation 2024

Date and time: March 14 to 15th (two days in total)

Location: Station Conference Tokyo

Organizer: The Japan Financial News Co., Ltd. (Nikken)

Key Programs: Lectures, panel discussions, seminars



Photo: Keynote Lecture by FSA's Deputy Director-General Yanase

3. Major Related Events

Japan Fintech Festival

Date and time: March 4 to 8th (five days in total)

Location: Kanda Myojin Shrine

Organizer: Elevandi (a spinout NPO from Singapore Government/MAS)

Key Programs:

Global Leaders Dialogue (panel discussion), Strategic Industry Roundtables, The Founders Day, Digital Asset Summit, Power Roundtables, etc.

Major Events by Theme

* Entity mentioned in the square brackets means the organizer.

■ Digital Assets, Web3.0

- Digital Securities (Security Tokens) Symposium [Tokyo Metropolitan Government]
- BGIN Block#10 [BGIN]
- Blockchain Roundtable [FSA]

* It refers to a rule under which meeting participants can freely disclose and talk about what was discussed at the meeting, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

■ Use of AI and Data

- Finance × Startup EXPO 2024 [FinGATE × FITA]
- Generative AI Meet Up [AWS]
- The 2nd Financial Data Utilization Challenge Award Ceremony [FDUA]

■ Region

- SARBLAB Tour "Learning Fintech Culture" [SARBLAB, The Second Association of Regional Banks]
- Osaka Fintech Workshop [Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, Urban Innovation Institute]
- Fukuoka FinTech Meetup [Fukuoka Prefecture]

■ Insure Tech

- Generative AI Roundtable [Aflac, Nikkei Inc.]
- Future of Insurance (Hoken no mirai) [Guardtech]
- ITC Japan 2024 [Plug and Play]

■ Pitch Event

- FINOPITCH [4F]
- Impact Pitch [Nikkei Inc.]
- UK FinTech Mission to Japan 2024 [British Embassy]

During the Japan Fintech Week 2024, various networking events were also held in addition to the above related events.



Photo: Reception co-hosted by FSA and Fintech Association of Japan

4. FinTech Support Desk On-site Consultation

Since 2015, the FSA has established the FinTech Support Desk, a unified contact point for fintech consultation and information exchange. At this desk, we offer **consultation services on a wide range of financial aspects, including matters related to specific businesses and business plans, for people who are engaged in businesses involving various innovations such as fintech or who are considering new businesses.**

During the Japan Fintech Week 2024, consultation booths were set up at the FIN/SUM venue (Marunouchi Building) and a part of the Japan Fintech Festival venue (Kanda Myojin) for on-site consultations. We not only provided consulting on matters related to regulations but also exchanged general opinions on business. We received inquiries and questions about cross-border remittance business from overseas operators, and we provided them with information on types of licenses, registration requirements, flow to registration, and processing time for registration, etc.



Photo: On-site Consulting Services by Dispatched Consultants

The FSA usually accepts consultations by phone. Please call the FSA FinTech Support Desk at the contact below.

Service hours: 9:30 to 18:15 on weekdays

Phone: 03-3506-7080

**The FIN/SUM 2025 will be held next year!
We look forward to your participation!**

Japan Fintech Week 2025

March 3 to 7, 2025 (Core Week)

FIN/SUM 2025

March 4 to 7, 2025

Discussion on necessary actions by auditors in connection with the revision of the quarterly disclosure system

- A written opinion was handed to Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kanda at the General Meeting of the Business Accounting Council -

On March 12, 2024, the General Meeting of the Business Accounting Council*¹ was held to discuss "Revision of the Quarterly Review Standards to be Replaced with the Interim Review Standards and Consequential Amendments to Quality Control Standards for Auditing (hereinafter referred to as the "Interim Review Standards, etc.") and recent trends in disclosure, accounting and auditing.

1. Interim Review Standards

With regard to the quarterly reporting system based on the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act, the Working Group on Corporate Disclosure of the Financial System Council reported the direction that the current statutory quarterly securities reports should be abolished and unified into quarterly earnings reports (kessan tanshin) required

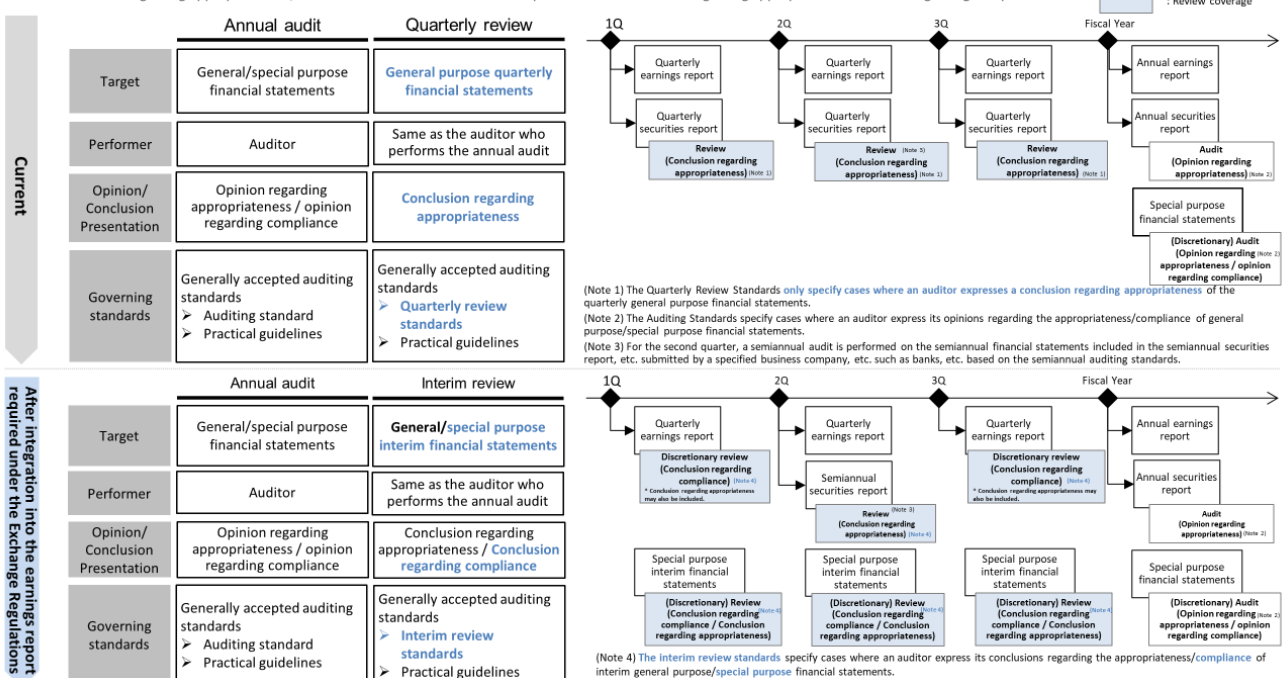
under the Exchange Regulations, and that the audit review should be left at the discretion of each company instead of making it mandatory. Accordingly, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act was revised, and the Act for Partial Revision of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (Act No. 79 of November 29, 2023) was enacted on November 20, 2023.

Against this background, based on the discussion at the General Meeting of the Business Accounting Council held in April 2023, the Audit Standard Committee began deliberating on the necessary measures on the auditor's review to be taken in connection with the revision of quarterly disclosure requirements from September 2023 and compiled proposals to revise the quarterly review standards to the interim review standards.

Revision of Auditor Review Standards

□ With regard to the review standards by auditors, while the current standards (quarterly review standards) only cover reviews in quarterly securities reports, which are to be abolished, the Audit Standard Committee of the Business Accounting Council prepared a proposal to revise the standards to cover various interim reviews, including quarterly earnings reports (proposal for interim review standards), and it was finalized at the General Meeting of the Business Accounting Council in March 2024.

* There are two roles of audit review; one is a conclusion regarding compliance, which assesses whether the financial statements comply with the rules of presentation, and the other is a conclusion regarding appropriateness, which assesses whether the financial statements are presented appropriately as a whole for the proper understanding of users. The quarterly review standards required only the conclusion regarding appropriateness, while the interim review standards require both the conclusion regarding appropriateness and that regarding compliance.



*1 Please refer to https://www.fsa.go.jp/singi/singi_kigyousiryou/kaikei/20240305.html for the agenda and handouts.

This revision proposal changes the name of the quarterly review standards to the interim review standards, as it is common to all interim reviews conducted by auditors who audit annual financial statements, including reviews on quarterly earnings reports (kessan tanshin), in addition to reviews on interim financial statements under the revised Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. And it also introduces a form of conclusion regarding compliance in addition to the form of conclusion regarding appropriateness (of disclosure) stipulated in the current quarterly review standards. *² This revision clarifies that the interim review will be performed in accordance with the interim audit standards, which are generally accepted as fair and proper standards, and will help ensure the reliability of the review and disclosure information.

At this General Meeting, after Mr. Horie, Chairperson of the Audit Standard Committee, explained the background and outline of the establishment of the interim review standards, etc., a written opinion on the interim review standards, etc., was compiled in the name of the General Meeting of the Business Accounting Council. *³

Chairperson Horie handed the written opinion to Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kanda, and in response to this, Mr. Kanda stated the following:

- In order to promote Japan as a Leading Asset Management Center under "New Form of Capitalism" policy, corporate information must be disclosed in a timely and appropriate manner, and the trust of domestic and foreign investors in Japan's financial and capital markets must be

ensured; and

- It is important that our country's accounting and auditing system infrastructure should be continuously improved through discussions at the Business Accounting Council.



Photo: Horie, Chairperson of the Audit Standard Committee, handed the written opinion to Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kanda.

2. Recent Trends in Disclosure, Accounting and Auditing

At the same time, the secretariat explained recent trends in disclosure, accounting, and auditing,*⁴ followed by discussions, and then it was approved that the Audit Standard Committee would deliberate on the "Measures to be Taken in Accordance with the Revision of International Standard on Auditing concerning Going Concern Assumption and Fraud."

*² There are two roles of an audit review: one is a conclusion regarding compliance, which assesses whether the financial statements comply with the rules of presentation, and the other is a conclusion regarding appropriateness, which assesses whether the financial statements are presented appropriately as a whole for the proper understanding of users. The quarterly review standards required only the conclusion regarding appropriateness, while the interim review standards require both the conclusion regarding appropriateness and that regarding compliance.

*³ The publication of the "Opinion on Revision of the Quarterly Review Standards to the Interim Review Standards" and the "Opinion on Revision of Quality Control Standards for Audits" on March 27, 2024:
<https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r5/sonota/20240327-2/20240327.html>

*⁴ The secretariat explained the study on disclosure and assurance of sustainability information, compliance with international accounting standards, international trends in accounting standards, and major revisions to International Standard on Auditing, etc.

The 13th Japan Securities Summit

- Vice Minister for International Affairs Ariizumi gave the introductory speech -

On March 6, the 13th Japan Securities Summit was held at Mansion House in London, co-hosted by the Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA), the Japan Exchange Group, Inc. (JPX) and the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).

According to the JSDA, it was the first face-to-face meeting in London in five years, and about 300 local financial institutions and institutional investors participated.

At the beginning of the summit, Prime Minister Kishida delivered a video message, followed by a keynote speech by KIHARA Seiji, a member of the House of Representatives, on measures to realize the New Form of Capitalism, such as the Doubling Asset-based Income Plan and initiatives to promote Japan as a leading asset management center, under the message "Don't miss the opportunity to invest in Japan."

From the FSA, Vice Minister for International Affairs Ariizumi gave a lead speech on the theme of "Promoting Japan as a Leading Asset

Management Center." At the beginning of his speech, Mr. Ariizumi objectively analyzed the current state of the Japanese economy using data from various macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, CPI and ROE. Then he presented the initiatives toward realization of Japan as a leading asset management center in a comprehensive and detailed manner. Specifically, he explained the launch of the new NISA system, legislation for the customer-oriented business management of financial institutions, corporate governance reform, special zones for financial and asset management businesses, and asset owner principles.

The materials used in the speech by Vice Minister for International Affairs Ariizumi are available on the [FSA website](https://www.fsa.go.jp/common/conference/danwa/20240306.pdf).

<https://www.fsa.go.jp/common/conference/danwa/20240306.pdf>



PHOTO: Vice Minister for International Affairs Ariizumi's
Lead Speech



Photo: Panel Discussion

Following the lead speech by Vice Minister for International Affairs Ariizumi, a panel discussion was held on the theme of "Measures to revitalize the Japanese market."

The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Ana Nicholls (Director of Industry Analysis) of the Economist Group, and as panelists, Ms. Stefanie Drews (President, Nikko Asset Management Co.,Ltd.), Mr. IKEDA Yunosuke (Chief Equity Strategist, Market Strategy Research Department, Nomura Securities Co., Ltd.), and Mr. James Gautrey (Portfolio Manager, Global and International Equities, Schroders plc.) attended in addition to Vice Minister for International Affairs Ariizumi.

Comments from the person in charge: NAGOYA Tomohiro, Deputy Director, International Securities, Office of International Affairs, Planning and Management Division, Strategy Development and Management Bureau, FSA

The Nikkei Stock Average (the closing price base) exceeded its bubble high for the first time in 34 years in late February, just before the Japan Securities Summit, and exceeded 40,000 yen two days before the summit on March 4. Against this background, the meeting attracted interest from overseas institutional investors regarding "Is Japan's strong stock market temporary, like a bubble, or a good sign that it will continue?" and related questions about the Japanese government's measures to promote Japan as a leading asset management center. Many speakers expressed positive opinions about the future expansion, etc. of investment in Japanese companies, indicating the high level of interest in the Japanese market.

Japan Weeks 2024

(Core Week: September 30 to October 4, 2024)



JAPAN WEEKS▶

\ Core week: 2024.09.30 ▶ 10.04 /

The Government of Japan is advancing its initiatives to promote Japan as a leading asset management and financial center of the world.

As part of these efforts, the Government of Japan held Japan Weeks for the first time in the fall of 2023. During the Weeks, various events were held with the participation of overseas investors and asset management companies.

In order to strengthen communication with overseas investors, a second round of Japan Weeks will be held in the fall of 2024.*

Its core week is from September 30 to October 4, and a variety of events will be held, including during the weeks before and after that.

During this core week, a launch event of the Asset Management Forum will be held on October 3. In addition to exchanging views on the "Policy Plan for Promoting Japan as a Leading Asset Management Center," the

launch event is expected to discuss the promotion of emerging asset managers and sustainable finance.

We will soon open a special website to send out relevant information, so please stay tuned!

For collaboration inquiries regarding Japan Weeks 2024, please feel free to contact us at japan_as_ifc@fsa.go.jp

For information about last year's Japan Weeks, please visit our [special page](https://www.fsa.go.jp/internationalfinancialcenter/lp/japanweeks/index_en.html) at https://www.fsa.go.jp/internationalfinancialcenter/lp/japanweeks/index_en.html

*Holding of Japan Weeks 2024 (announced on March 22)

<https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/financialcenter/japanweeks2024.html>

JFSA's Major Activities in March (March 1 to March 31, 2024)

- [Finalization of "Basic Guidelines on Impact Investment \(Impact Finance\)" \(March 29\)](#)
- [Dedicated Impact Consortium Website Launched \(March 29\)](#)
- [The FSA publishes the status of loans held by all banks as of the end of March 2023, based on the Financial Reconstruction Act \(March 29\)](#)
- [The first meeting of the Working Group on Disclosure and Assurance of Sustainability-related Financial Information \(of the Financial System Council\) \(March 26\)](#)
- [International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators published the Report on 2023 Survey of Inspection Findings \(March 25\)](#)
- [EU-Asia Pacific Forum on Financial Regulation \(March 25\)](#)
- [Asia GX \(Green Transformation\) Consortium holds kick-off meeting \(March 13\)](#)
- [Asia High-level Financial Regulators' Forum holds its first meeting \(March 13\)](#)
- [The Dialogue between the Financial Services Agency \(FSA\) and the Center for Financial Industry Information Systems \(FISC\) \(March 11\)](#)
- [Publication of "FSA Analytical Notes" \(March 8\)](#)
- [Publication of the "Statement on the end of Euroyen TIBOR \(Publication of the Results of Public Consultation on permanent cessation of Euroyen TIBOR and related issues\)" by JBA TIBOR Administration \(March 6\)](#)

JFSA's official English X (formerly Twitter) account
https://x.com/JFSA_en



**We are promoting information
dissemination using X (formerly Twitter)!**

Editorial Postscript

This month's issue features events promoting the appeal of Japanese finance held both in Japan and the United Kingdom. I have the impression that more and more overseas financial professionals are coming to Japan as the season gets warmer. Every day I think about how to convey Japan's charms to the world and how to create messages for that purpose. I will make efforts to create communications that reach the world by studying how the rest of the world communicates its charms.

Now that the new school and business year is here, I often see many freshly-dressed new members of society and students wearing new uniforms at the station in the morning, which reminds me of my first fresher feelings. We are studying not only the content of messages but also the means to convey them to reexamine how we should communicate our policy. Based on the feedback from many people, now we are preparing a new form of the issue, so please stay tuned.

YANO Shohei, Director of the Public Relations Office, FSA
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