



# KEIZAI SILICON VALLEY US - JAPAN BUSINESS FORUM

*Newsletter – Issue No. 283 – June 2020*

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## MOBILITY INNOVATIONS: WHAT DO VCS, ACCELERATORS, AND CORPORATES THINK?

WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2020 5:00 - 6:00 PM



Morgan  
Livermore

Risa  
Ishii

Masahiro  
Suzuki

Shawn  
Koyama

LIVE WEBINAR

The way we transport from point A to point B is rapidly changing. Autonomous vehicles, flying taxis, electric scooters, and so on. How are these technologies coming to reality and what comes next? In this event you will hear from Venture Capitalists and an Accelerator in the mobility sector to picture the innovations that are going on and what comes next. Registration at [keizai.org](https://keizai.org)

### **Morgan Livermore, *Partner, Geodesic Capital***



Morgan is a Partner at Geodesic Capital. Morgan works with various Geodesic portfolio companies including InVision, JFrog, Aurora, Marqeta, UiPath, and Workato. He primarily focuses his investments on two key themes: companies reinventing industries (autonomous vehicles, fintech) and technologies modernizing enterprises (application software, DevOps, automation, infrastructure, and AI). Prior to Geodesic, Morgan was an investor at Accel, where he invested in GoFundMe, PagerDuty, Algolia, and Browserstack. Before Accel, Morgan advised founders through capital raises and company sales at Vista Point Advisors. Morgan received a BA from Dartmouth College, with a major in government and a minor in markets, management, and the economy. While in college, Morgan co-owned and operated Evolving Vox, Dartmouth's original furniture rental company.

### **Risa Ishii, *Partnerships Manager, Plug and Play***



Risa is a Partnerships Manager focusing on mobility industry at Plug and Play. She strategically supports OEMs and suppliers in their innovation activities, set up their innovation roadmaps and provide smart city related industry expertise. She is also responsible for promoting collaborations among startups that could provide solutions to large corporations' multifarious needs and vice versa.

### **Masahiro Suzuki, *Partner, Director of Strategic Services, Autotech Ventures***



Masahiro is Partner at Autotech Ventures, a venture capital firm located in Silicon Valley that manages funds of more than \$250 million to invest in ground transportation startups. He provides corporate investors awareness of the fast-moving trends in the transportation technology and market while helping these corporate investors to engage leading ground transportation startups as their strategic technology partners. Masahiro was previously Director of Corporate Planning at Toyota Motor, providing internal strategy consulting and forming technology partnerships with outside corporations while reporting directly to the CEO and Board of Directors. Masahiro graduated from the Executive MBA program at Stanford and holds a BA degree in Psychology from Nagoya University.

### **Shawn Koyama (Moderator), *Startup Liaison Manager, Hitachi***



Shawn is a Startup Liaison Manager at Hitachi. Shawn focuses on designing new businesses for Hitachi in collaboration with startups especially in the railway sector. His experience includes designing, developing, testing, and selling various railway solutions for Japanese bullet train (Shinkansen) and the UK railway market. He grew up in the US and received a BA Degree in economics from Keio University.

# Autonomous Airliners?

*By Joe Quinlan*

While experimental autonomous vehicles have been plying the streets of Silicon Valley for years now, the average person might give second thought to flying on an autonomous airliner. After all, the consequences of a wrong turn could be much more serious. And each time a wide body airliner takes off and lands, the pilot is literally holding hundreds of lives in his hands. Should airline pilots be replaced by computers? That seems far-fetched.



*Hey, where are the pilots?*

But hold on. This idea of a human-less cockpit may not be as terrible (and as far off) as we might think. More and more these days, airliner crashes have been attributed to pilot error, where a computer pilot clearly would have saved the day. Even the recent Boeing 737 MAX crashes have a strong element of pilot error. But more broadly, spatial disorientation, panic, and simple pilot error are accounting for an increasing share of aircraft fatalities, including (it seems) the recent death of Kobe Bryant. Although the final NTSB report is more than a year away, aviation experts are saying that pilot spatial disorientation in fog most likely caused the crash of Kobe's helicopter. The 2009 crash of Air France flight 447 over the nighttime Atlantic was also caused by a spatially disoriented pilot who stalled the plane and caused the loss of 228 lives. If that pilot had simply taken his hands off the controls, the plane would have leveled out and everyone would have survived. And the crash of Asiana Airlines Flight 214 at San Francisco International Airport in 2013 was caused by pilots who noticed far too late that their plane was well below the proper glide path. Interestingly, a first step toward autonomous airliners might be reducing the number of pilots on long-haul flights to one. While the pilot is sleeping, the computer flies the plane.

As with many new technologies, including the internet itself (originally Arpanet), the military is leading the way. In the US Air Force, the demand for drone pilots is exceeding that of pilots for manned aircraft. Of course the military has a special interest in using remote pilots, who always live to fight another day, even if their planes are shot down. More generally, the US public has shown itself to be highly sensitive to military casualties, so drones allow us to go after the bad guys without risking American lives.



*The Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk*

Coming back to earth, Keizai Silicon Valley's July 8th forum deals with more immediate innovations in mobility, like the self-driving vehicles we have seen making their way around Mountain View. What do VC's, Accelerators, and Corporates think the future will be? Come join us and find out.

# Event Recap: Keizai Silicon Valley Shinnenkai 2020

## (January 24, 2020)

By Joe Quinlan

The year's Shinnenkai was pleased to have two honored speakers, Kaname Hayashi and Guy Kawasaki.

Kaname Hayashi led off the evening by explaining his loving robots, called Lovots. Actual robots were brought to the event and interacted with members of the audience. Hayashi-san's idea is to create innocent robots that want to be loved. Traditionally, robots are thought of as helping people, but conversely people help Lovots; they are like pets. Humans derive mental well-being from their attachment to cats and dogs, but Lovots can even exceed pets at the science of attachment by providing constantly new and dynamic interaction. This can be beneficial to people with autism or Alzheimer's.



Guy Kawasaki followed by diving right into a fireside chat with Dr. Richard Dasher of Stanford University, forgoing the traditional formal speech. Though his career has gone through many changes, Guy provided an optimistic outlook for technology and the future. Guy may have originally coined the

marketing meaning of the word evangelism, and he sees this as an ongoing phenomenon. Recently Guy has started a podcast about "Remarkable People". These people continue to bring new ideas to the market or field of human endeavor where they are active. Guy recognized that we are currently in trying times in terms of the tenor of our national conversation, but he challenges us to rise to occasion and use tools like social media and podcasting to make things better, rather than wallowing in how great things were in the past. Evangelism does not mean tearing things down (like killing a competing market leader), but rather it is about making people's lives better. To be successful in Silicon Valley, Guy says you need people who can make things and people who can sell things. Guy challenges us to continue to follow this model to make the world a better place.



*Next check out some of the great photos from this very enjoyable evening...*



## Shinnenkai Photos!



*Welcome to the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club*



*The lively art of conversation*



*Party Time!*



*Tea Time!*





*I found a new friend!*



*The Fireside Chat*



*Is everybody happi?*





*The Fitbit Winners*



*Yum Yum!*



*A well-deserved award*

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