



# KEIZAI SILICON VALLEY

## US - JAPAN BUSINESS FORUM

*Newsletter – Issue No. 285 – January 2021*



Takuma Sato  
Distinguished Achievement Award

31 Anniversary  
Shinnenkai  
January 29, 2021  
5 - 6:30 pm PST



on ZOOM



Dan Okimoto



John Roos

Dialogue Session  
2021: Beginning of a New Era for U.S. - Japan?

Join us in celebrating Keizai Silicon Valley's 2021 Shinnenkai (New Year's Reception Webinar) on Friday, January 29th.

This year we are going to host professional racing driver Mr. Takuma Sato as our honor guest to receive the Keizai Silicon Valley Distinguished Achievement Award. Famous for his “No Attack, No Chance” motto, Mr. Sato is the first Japanese and Asian driver to win Indianapolis 500, one of three most prestigious motor races in the world, and the twentieth driver to have multiple Indy 500 championships (2017,2020). Professor Richard Dasher from Stanford University will host the award interview for Mr. Sato.

We will also be hosting a Keynote Dialogue Session on the topic “2021: Beginning of a New Era for U.S. – Japan?” featuring Dr. Dan Okimoto, Co- Chairman of the Silicon Valley Japan Platform and Mr. John Roos, Founding Partner of Geodesic Capital and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Both guests will discuss topics including U.S. – Japan relations from various aspects with Professor Dasher and participants through fireside chat and breakout Q&A sessions.

The Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Toru Maeda will kick off this year’s Shinnenkai with a virtual traditional New Year’s Toasting and Greetings.

Registration at [keizai.org](https://www.keizai.org)

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### **Takuma Sato, Professional Racing Driver**



Mr. Takuma Sato is a world-renowned professional racing driver. He was two-time winner ('17,'20) of Indianapolis 500-Mile Race (aka Indy 500), which is considered one of the “Triple Crown of Motorsport”. He was also the first Japanese and Asian driver to win the Indy 500 and the twentieth driver to have multiple Indy 500 wins. Mr. Sato received the prestigious Prime Minister’s Award from Japanese premier Shinzo Abe following his first Indy 500 victory in 2017. Born in Tokyo on January 28, 1977, Mr. Sato started his racing life in bicycle racing during high school, collecting a record series of victories in inter-high school competitions and All-Japan

Student Championships. In pursuit of dreaming to become a F1 racer, he entered the Suzuka Circuit Racing School (SRS-F) in 1996, winning a fully paid drive in the 1998 All-Japan Formula 3 Championship. Following his kart-racing debut, he moved to England in 1998 to compete in the British Formula and winning British Formula Three, Formula Three Masters and the prestigious Macau Grand Prix Championship. From 2002 through 2008, Mr. Sato competed in various teams at F1 racing during which he achieved victory in the 2004 American GP and the "Overtake of the Year" award from F1 Racing magazine in 2007. Since 2010, he has relocated to United States, where he is currently competing in the IndyCar Series as a driver for the Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing team. In 2021, Mr. Sato was chosen for “Distinguished Achievement Award” by the Keizai Silicon Valley.

### **Daniel Okimoto, *Co-Chairman of the Silicon Valley Japan Platform***



Dr. Daniel I. Okimoto is Co-Chairman of the Silicon Valley Japan Platform. He is Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science at Stanford University. In 1978, Professor Okimoto co-founded the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia/Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, a leading center for scholarly research, public policy analysis, and policy outreach, where he served as the Director for more than ten years. He has been Vice- Chairman of the Japan Committee of the National Research Council at the National Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Department of Politics at Princeton University. In 2004, Professor Okimoto received the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation, recognizing his contributions to US-Japan relations during the 150th year celebration of bilateral relations. In 2007, he was awarded the "Order of the Rising Sun with Goldray Neck Ribbon" by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Japanese government. In 2009, Professor Okimoto was chosen for "The Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Keizai Silicon Valley. In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed Professor Okimoto as one of twenty-six distinguished scholars who have been selected to serve as members of the National Council of the Humanities. Professor Okimoto graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, received his Master's Degree from Harvard University, and earned his Doctoral Degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan. He is the author and editor of many books and articles, including *Between MITI and the Market: Japanese Industrial Policy for High Technology* (Stanford University Press); *The Political Economy of Japan* (Stanford University Press); and *Competitive Edge: The Semiconductor Industry in the U.S. and Japan* (Stanford University Press).

### **John V. Roos, *Founding Partner at Geodesic Capital***



John V. Roos is the Founding Partner at Geodesic Capital, a late stage venture capital fund focused on investing in enterprise and consumer technology companies. He is a Senior Advisor at Centerview Partners, a preeminent mergers& acquisitions advisory firm and a member of the Board of Directors at Salesforce.com and the Sony Corporation. In addition to the Global Advisory Board of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Ambassador Roos chairs the Toyota Research Institute Advisory Board and serves on the Board of Directors of The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. Previously, Ambassador Roos served as Chief Executive Officer and Senior Partner at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich, & Rosati, the leading law firm in the United States in the representation of technology, life sciences, and emerging growth companies. From August 2009 – August 2013 Ambassador Roos served as the United States Ambassador to Japan. On August 6, 2010 he became the first sitting U.S. Ambassador ever to attend the commemoration ceremony of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. Ambassador Roos' service in Tokyo coincided with the devastating 9.0 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis on March 11, 2011. Following this tragedy, Ambassador Roos led the American effort on the ground in support of Japan's response to the multi-dimensional and unprecedented disaster. After the crisis, Ambassador Roos also led the creation of the TOMODACHI initiative, a public-private partnership that has raised more than fifty million dollars and established more than 40 exchange programs. In 2019, Ambassador Roos was chosen for "Outstanding Impact Award" by the Keizai Silicon Valley.

# Recent Event Recaps

## HOW HAS COVID19 ACCELERATED DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION? September 8, 2020

By Marlinda Galapon

COVID-19 has affected our lives in ways we don't fully yet understand. We know enough that there will be no returning to how life was at the start of 2020. Keizai Silicon Valley's Web Series part 1 covered how COVID-19 has accelerated digital transformations.

Daniel Michael of Veritas Technologies LLC led the evening with the things his company had to consider as COVID drastically changed how they did business. Like many others, they had to work out how to transition from working in an office, and working with paper to doing everything digitally. They have now permanently shut down a number of their offices, and learned to be less reliant on physical spaces and paper by digitizing a lot of their papers and contracts, and using e-signature platforms. All their meetings are now done through Zoom.



Vanessa Liu of SAP. iO further expands on how overnight, retailers were pitted Amazon who had been digital only from the get go, and it has been hard to compete with. Many companies did have a plan to eventually make these kinds of changes, but the timeline was projected to be more like 3-4 years. COVID has pushed that timeline ahead.

Ken Kumayama of Skadden talked of the challenges of being able to replicate the connection we get from in person meetings over zoom.

For better or worse, COVID has affected corporations need to engage online, and to keep up with the pace of change, enterprise AI is needed. Machine learning, AI, the metrics that can only be discovered by utilizing such technologies.



# HARNESSING BIG DATA FOR INNOVATION

November 4, 2020

By Joe Quinlan



Keizai Silicon Valley welcomed Melanie Carmosino of Microsoft, Hiromi Yamaoka of Future Corporation, and Colin McCubbins of Walmart Media Group to discuss recent trends in big data and innovation. The event was moderated by Sam Wiley of VALUENEX. A number of interesting points were brought up throughout the evening. Data can be considered the 21<sup>st</sup> century oil. It can be used in good ways, such as credit scoring. But it can also be used

in bad ways as exemplified by Cambridge Analytics using Facebook data to sway the 2016 election. Privacy protection cannot be just rules on a piece of paper; the protections need to be built into the software itself. In the future, privacy restrictions will make big data more expensive, whereas machine learning will become less expensive. Finally, natural language processing will allow an increasing amount of information to be extracted from available documents.



## Keizai Movie Night: “Three Sisters”

December 26, 2020

By Joe Quinlan

Keizai tried its first “movie night” with the 2014 film “Three Sisters” followed by Q&A with the producer Seishiro Nishida. “Three Sisters” is a story of a family of three daughters who run a candy



shop in the Masago neighborhood of Kagoshima. This family has been visited by multiple instances of divorce among the daughters and the parents, and producer Nishida uses the lens of divorce to view what marriage is and how it should be, while also emphasizing that there are types of families that exist without marriage.

This event came off quite well for Keizai’s first foray into this type of event. The dozens of attendees seemed to enjoy the film, and the Q&A following the film was quite an

intellectually stimulating discussion with Mr. Nishida. Nishida-san explained that he had long wanted to act in a film about Kagoshima, but no opportunity ever presented itself, so he figured the only way he



was going to get to do a Kagoshima film was to produce it himself. This film was originally a play, and Nishida-san explained that while the plot of the film was essentially the same as the play, a motion picture allows many more scene locations. In the play almost all the scenes were in the living room of the house, but the film allowed for more interesting scene locations, like walks along a neighborhood riverside and also the use of the candy-making equipment in the shop. This film highlighted the problem of neighborhood mom & pop shops losing out to

large shopping centers, and in fact the production of this film served as an opportunity for the real-life Masago neighborhood to revive itself. Over 300 residents of the neighborhood participated in the production of the film, serving as extras or assisting in the filming on location in Masago.

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