



KEIZAI SILICON VALLEY

US - JAPAN BUSINESS FORUM

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Cleantech startups looking for investment face challenges in the current US market. Japanese corporate venture capital companies (CVCs) represent one alternative as many such CVCs are still active in the cleantech sector. Co-organized between Keizai Silicon Valley and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), with support from the 4WARD San Francisco, Berkeley & Bay Area Climate Group, Informal Spaces – Oakland, JETRO San Francisco and the UC Berkeley Strauch Cleantech to Market (C2M) Program, the event will be held in conjunction with San Francisco Climate Week and will facilitate matchmaking between Japanese CVCs active in cleantech investment to interested startups. Register at keizai.org

Thursday, April 23, 2026 3:00 – 7:00 pm (PDT)

- Registration/Networking: 3:00 – 3:30
- Program: 3:30 – 5:30
- CVC-Startup Talks/Networking: 5:30 – 7:00

Venue

Japan Innovation Campus
214 Homer Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Fees

- Free; registration required
- Food and beverages will be served

Japan and Cleantech

By Joe Quinlan

With almost perfect timing, Keizai Silicon Valley is joining together with NEDO and other organizations to focus on Japanese corporate venture capital investment in cleantech startups. The afternoon of



Nunobiki Plateau Wind Farm

Thursday, April 23rd promises to be an exciting review of cleantech investing from the Japanese corporate perspective. The closing of the Strait of Hormuz and the recent skyrocketing gas prices have focused the world on accelerating the move to clean energy. Japan has a unique perspective on cleantech because, unlike the US, Japan imports virtually all of its fossil fuel energy. As such, Japan can be quite vulnerable to disruptions like the Iran war. So Japan should have a strong motivation to move to clean energy as soon as possible. Indeed, Japan has set a goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. That being said, Japan has faced challenges in moving to clean energy. Fossil fuels still provide nearly 70% of Japan’s

electricity. In particular, Japan’s great potential in offshore wind has yet to be exploited, currently accounting for only 1% of Japan’s electricity generation. So in sum, there are both exciting opportunities and significant hurdles ahead for cleantech in Japan. Come join us to find out more.

Event Summary – Shinnenkai 2026

It was another beautiful January evening high above Silicon Valley for Keizai’s 36th Anniversary Shinnenkai. Following a welcome by Chimmy Shioya, president of Keizai Silicon Valley and greetings by



Deputy Consul-General Takeshi Ichihara, the event proceeded to the guest of honor Kristi Yamaguchi, with moderation by Yoky Matsuoka. As a fellow athlete (in tennis), Yoky asked Kristi about her early participation in the sport of ice skating. Kristi mentioned that she started when she was six years old, and middle school was when she really got serious about skating. Kristi also dabbled in other sports, such as the Japanese-American youth basketball league where her father was a coach. Yoky asked about the sacrifices Kristi had to make as a child skater, but Kristi said it wasn’t really a sacrifice because she wanted to do it.

Kristi feels she had to find the joy in skating in order to be successful. She said there was a point about one year before the Olympics where she wondered “Am I really going to do this?”, but she found the “why” within herself and went on to win the gold medal.

After the Olympics, Kristi realized that life can’t just end there, so with the help of her parents, she decided to focus on childhood literacy through her Always Dream organization. Eventually, Always Dream chose to promote electronic reading devices for low-income students who may have limited access to physical books. The screen gives the child access to over 40,000 titles, and reading progress can be easily tracked.



Finally, Kristi spoke about her win on Dancing with the Stars. Although it was a spirited competition, she described it as a bit more low key than the Olympics, with all the dancers becoming friends. Kristi



did not really know how she would do in the dancing competition, since fan votes are such a big part of the result. In the end, it was a second championship for Kristi. The last questioner from the audience asked if Kristi puts on her gold medal at home when she is feeling a bit down. Kristi laughed and explained that her gold medal is actually at the US Figure Skating museum in Colorado Springs.

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