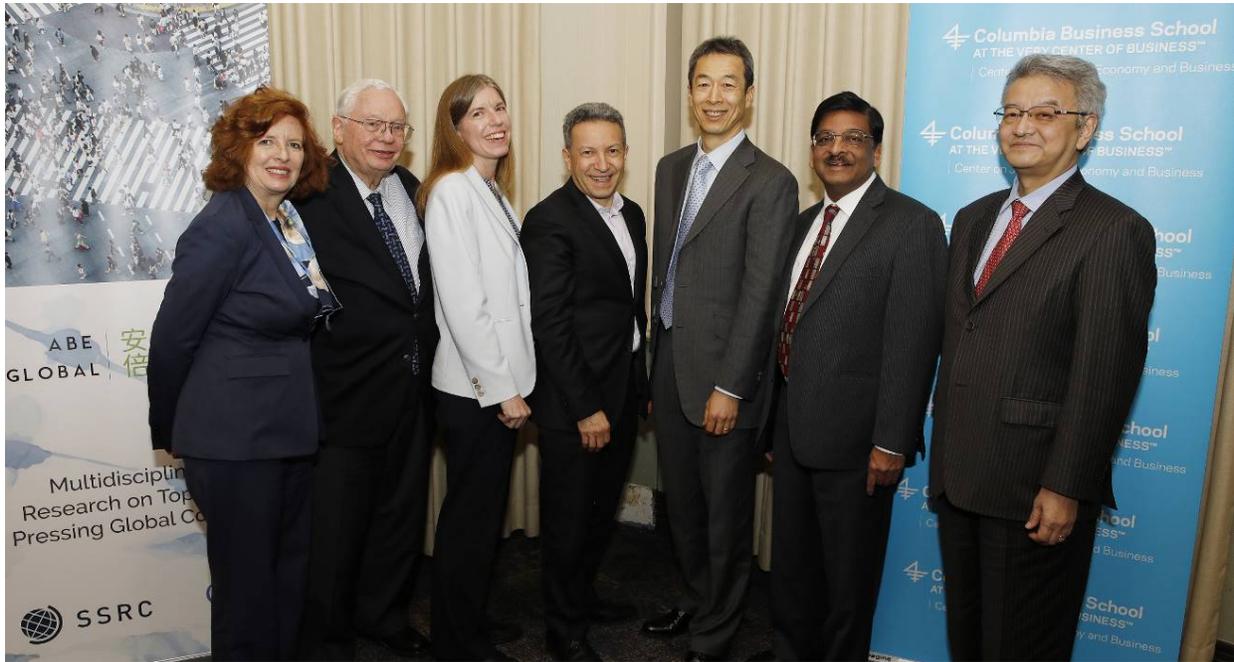


Abe Fellows Global Forum (Abe Global)

Japan and the Leadership of the World Trading System

November 10, 2017

Faculty House, Columbia University



Together with the Abe Fellowship Program, a partnership between the Social Sciences Research Council (“SSRC”) and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (“CGP”), the Center on Japanese Economy and Business (“CJEB”) hosted “Japan and the Leadership of the World Trading System,” a panel discussion on the current world economy and Japan’s place in it. Welcome remarks were delivered by Hugh Patrick, Director of CJEB; Junichi Chano, Executive Director of the CGP; and Takatoshi Ito, Director of the Program on Public Pensions and Sovereign Funds at CJEB and former Abe Fellowship program committee member from 1994-1999. The panelists, all of whom are Abe Fellows, were Vinod Aggarwal (UC Berkeley), Christina Davis (Princeton), and Taiji Furusawa (Hitotsubashi University). David Weinstein, CJEB’s Director of Research and Abe Fellow, moderated the panel discussion.

Professor Furusawa’s presentation about the consequences of protectionism on domestic economies opened the event. He took a macroeconomic stance, considering how trade overall (imports, exports, surplus, demand) are affected by protectionist stances. He also explained the direct consequences of outsourcing jobs to places like China and Mexico. Professor Aggarwal’s presentation focused mainly on the TPP and free trade agreements, weighing the costs and benefits of implementing the controversial trade partnership. He considered how supply chains would be improved as well as the various environmental arguments against it. Professor Davis chose to look at Japan’s role specifically as the de facto leader of the TPP in the face of the U.S.’s absence. She dissected the causes and consequences of the rise of populism in the last few years and examined the impact of President Trump’s uncertain leadership on the world economy. She argued that it is now “Japan’s turn to lead” the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

For more information about the Abe Fellowship Program, visit www.ssrc.org/programs/view/abe-fellowship-program/.