

# Will TPP Cause the Fall of Japan's Powerful Agricultural Cooperatives?

**Tuesday, September 27, 2016 | 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**  
Room 326, Uris Hall, Columbia Business School

---



## **Kazuhito Yamashita, Ph.D.**

Research Director,  
The Canon Institute for Global Studies;

Senior Fellow  
Research Institute of Economy,  
Trade and Industry

---

*Moderated by:*

**Hugh Patrick**, Director, Center on Japanese Economy and Business,  
Columbia Business School

---

*Synopsis:*

Dr. Yamashita will present his views on the impact of TPP on Japanese Agricultural Cooperatives (JAs), which have made agriculture one of the most protected industries in Japan. It is generally believed that Japanese agriculture requires the most major restructuring and deregulation in order to stimulate Japan's future economic growth. But JAs have always been in the way. He will cover topics that will answer questions such as: 1) Will all restructuring and delegation efforts transpire and remove JAs' political power which has hindered any agricultural policy reforms in Japan? 2) Have JAs lost their political clout to resist the initiative led by the Abe administration? 3) How would the political power of like-minded politicians from rural districts who are sympathetic to JAs influence these efforts? 4) Are there other approaches to achieve agricultural policy reform?

*Biographies:*

**Dr. Kazuhito Yamashita** is a research director at the Canon Institute for Global Studies and a senior fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry, an affiliated body of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. He received a Ph.D. in Agriculture at the University of Tokyo, a Master's in Applied Economics, a Master's in Public Administration at the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Law at the University of Tokyo.

He joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan in 1977. Since then, he has been assigned to positions such as director of the GATT Affairs Division; counselor of the Japanese Mission to the European Union in Brussels; and deputy-director general of the Rural Development Bureau. He retired from the MAFF in 2008.

Dr. Yamashita has authored 19 books as a single author in Japanese and numerous articles in Japanese newspapers and economic magazines. He has also made many TV and radio appearances. He emphasizes both the necessity of fundamental policy reform in order to revitalize Japanese agriculture and the importance of free trade in order to achieve Japan's food security. His views and opinions are widely recognized by the Japanese public and frequently cited by both domestic and foreign media.

Some English publications are as follows: "Japanese Agricultural Trade Policy and Sustainable Development" at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Issue Paper No. 56 2015; "The Political Economy of Japanese Agricultural Trade Negotiations" in *The Political Economy of Japanese Trade Policy*, Palgrave MacMillan 2015; "Series: The TPP and Agricultural Revitalization" in IIST e-Magazine November 2013 to March 2014; and "Agricultural Trade Policy Reform in Japan: Options for Achieving Change" in *Agricultural Subsidies in the WTO Green Box*, Cambridge University Press 2009.

**Hugh Patrick** is founder and director of the Center on Japanese Economy and Business, codirector of Columbia's APEC Study Center, and R. D. Calkins Professor of International Business Emeritus at Columbia Business School. He completed his BA at Yale University in 1951, earned MA degrees in Japanese studies (1955) and economics (1957), and a PhD in economics at the University of Michigan (1960). His professional publications include 18 books and some 60 articles and essays including most recently *How Finance Is Shaping the Economies of China, Japan, and Korea* (Columbia University Press, 2013), co-edited with Yung Chul Park. Professor Patrick has been awarded Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships and the Ohira Prize. He has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1974. In November 1994, the Government of Japan awarded him the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star (*Kunnitō Zuihōshō*). He received an Eagle on the World award by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, Inc., in November 2010.