



Report of the Financial Seminar for Citizens of Tokyo

-Learn from the Basics of Sustainable Finance-

On Feb 11th, 2021, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) held a financial seminar for citizens living, studying or working in the Tokyo metropolitan area to learn about basic knowledge and various methods of investing and sustainable finance.



Outline

Date	Feb 11th 2021(Thu)	13:00~17:00(JST)
Organizer	Office for Strategic Policy and ICT Promotion, Tokyo Metropolitan Government	
Participation cost	Free	
Video Steaming	https://www.sustainablefina.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/seminar/english	

Agenda

Topic	Time	Contents of the session	Lecturers
Opening Remarks	13:00~13:05 (5 mins)	Opening Remarks by TMG	Eiichiro Kodama Deputy Director General, Office for Strategic Policy and ICT Promotion, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Basics of Investment and Sustainable Finance	13:05~13:50 (45 mins)	Basics of sustainable finance	Takeshi Mizuguchi Professor, Faculty of Economics, Takasaki City University of Economics
	13:50~14:45 (55 mins)	Basics of Investment and Asset Formation	Minako Takekawa CEO, LIFE MAP LLC. Financial Journalist
	14:45~14:55 (10 mins)	Q&A	-
Practical Method of Sustainable Finance	15:00-15:45 (45 mins)	Types and characteristics of Sustainable Financial Products	Takeshi Mizuguchi Professor, Faculty of Economics, Takasaki City University of Economics
	15:45-16:30 (45 mins)	Understanding Corporate Non-financial Information disclosure	Kazuhiko Abe Executive Officer, PricewaterhouseCoopers Sustainability LLC
	16:30-17:00 (30 mins)	Q&A・Closing	-

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Lecture 1 Basics of Sustainable Finance

Takeshi Mizuguchi

Professor, Takasaki University of Economics

Professor Mizuguchi explained the definition of sustainable finance with familiar cases of everyday life and stated that “the impending limitations of a capitalist system” are the root cause of the requirement for sustainable finance. In addition, he introduced three reasons why investors implement sustainable finance: (1) ESG improves investment results (2) Universal ownership concept, (3) Sustainability preference of individual investors. Finally, he mentioned trends related to sustainable finance, such as the EU Taxonomy, which is being promoted globally, and Japan’s Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality.

Lecture 2 Basics of Investment and Asset Formation

Minako Takekawa

CEO, LIFE MAP LLC., Financial Journalist

From the perspective of a financial journalist, Ms. Takekawa introduced mainly how to manage personal assets and investment in sustainable financial products for individuals.

In terms of individual wealth-building, she provided a detailed explanation of iDeCo and Tsumitate NISA. She also introduced investment options and information useful for individuals investing in sustainable financial products.

Lecture 3 Types and characteristics of Sustainable Finance Products

Takeshi Mizuguchi

Professor of Faculty of Economics, Takasaki City University of Economics

This lecture focuses on how to engage in sustainable finance from the perspectives of both financial institutions and individual investors. At a financial institution level, he explained the methods of ESG investment in each area of finance (stocks, bonds, loans, etc.). From the individual’s point of view, he explained practical methods such as how to identify financial institutions and asset management institutions that are good at ESG investment, basic knowledge of integrated reports and sustainability reports, and methods to strengthen ESG literacy.

Lecture 4 Understanding Corporate Non-Financial Information Disclosure

Kazuhiko Abe

Executive Officer, PricewaterhouseCoopers Sustainability LLC

This lecture covered topics related to disclosure of corporate non-financial information, such as standards of sustainability reporting and integrated reporting. Moreover, the characteristics of initiatives regarding environmental and social themes such as climate change and human rights were introduced. Furthermore, as an evaluation of companies’ sustainability initiatives, he explained the mechanism of sustainability ratings and the meaning of non-financial information disclosure, with specific examples.

Q&A (abstract)

Participants raised the following questions.

Q: The significance of ESG investment for return-oriented investors

A: There are two aspects, one is to improve the overall economy by reducing external diseconomies, the other is to consider ESG factors to ultimately improve investment performance, such as eliminating stranded assets.

Q: Information that can be used as a reference for individual asset formation

A: Introductory books, the “Shiruporuto” website of the Central Council for Financial Services Information, leaflets on investment trusts and tax systems issued by Investment Trusts Association and Japan Securities Dealers Association, etc.

Q: About information disclosure: current status and future direction of the unification of disclosure standards

A: Non-financial information disclosure is becoming mainstream, and there has been a trend toward the integration of various standards related to sustainability information disclosure.