



大学院教育改革フォーラム2026

Forum for Graduate School Educational Reform 2026

博士活躍社会のエコシステム

Social Ecosystems for PhD Engagements

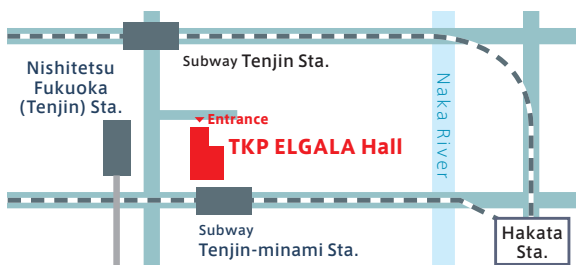
2026
12/18 Fri - 19 Sat

Venue **TKP ELGALA Hall**

(1-4-2 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka)



Website



Driven by rapid technological innovation—led by AI—the intensification of global challenges, and the diversification of values, our society has entered an era of unprecedented complexity and uncertainty. In this context, individuals holding doctoral degrees—equipped with deep expertise and the ability to collaborate across disciplines—play a vital role in creating new value and forging the future of society.

However, the capabilities and value of doctoral-level talent are not yet being fully utilized across Japanese society. There is a pressing need to establish a framework in which not only universities but also industry, government, local communities, and the international community work together to support the entire journey—from enrollment in doctoral programs and research activities to active engagement in society.

Under the theme of "Social Ecosystems for PhD Engagements," this forum brings together participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss a future where doctoral talent is cultivated sustainably and their capabilities are leveraged across various sectors of society. Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and presentations by graduate students, we will explore new relationships between doctoral talent and society, as well as the potential for co-creation.

Expanding the active participation of doctoral talent strengthens society's intellectual foundation and paves the way for a sustainable future. We hope this forum serves as a catalyst for new dialogue and collaboration toward realizing that vision.

卓越大学院プログラム
WISE Program



未来人材育成機構
Future Human Resource Development Institute

KYUSHU
UNIVERSITY

Greetings

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to host the Forum for Graduate School Educational Reform 2026 here in Fukuoka. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone whose cooperation and support have made this event possible. Centered on the theme of "Social Ecosystems for PhD Engagements," this forum takes a holistic view of the journey—from entering a doctoral program and earning a degree to playing diverse roles in society—and explores mechanisms that enable PhD holders to continuously demonstrate their capabilities and create value. A key objective of this forum is to forge stronger ties between PhD holders and society through dialogue involving not only universities but also industry, government, local communities, and the international community.

This forum also serves as a venue for PhD holders to meet across disciplinary and institutional boundaries, share experiences and challenges, and expand their networks. Notably, presentations by graduate students will offer practical proposals—developed through collaboration—to address the shared challenge of enhancing the well-being of doctoral students. We hope that the connections formed here will evolve into future collaborations and new endeavors.

We hope this forum will serve as a vital hub connecting PhD holders with society and with one another, acting as a catalyst for taking the next step forward. We look forward to your active participation and lively discussion.



Executive Vice President
for Education,
Kyushu University

Yoshimi Sonoda

Director of the Forum
for Graduate School
Educational Reform 2026

Program

Day 1 **12/18** Fri 13:40 - 17:50
Reception 18:10-19:30

12:30	Registration & Doors Open
13:40 - 14:00 ZOOM EN/JP	Opening Remarks President, Kyushu University Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Tsuyoshi Sugino (President, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)
14:00 - 14:30 ZOOM EN/JP	Keynote Speech Seishi Okamoto (Corporate Executive Officer EVP, Head of Fujitsu Research) Short Break (10min.)
14:40 - 16:00 ZOOM EN/JP	Case Presentations & Panel Discussion Seishi Okamoto (Corporate Executive Officer EVP, Head of Fujitsu Research) Tadahisa Kagimoto (Hardy TS Kagimoto, MD Chairman & CEO Healios) Natalie Konomi (Vice-Director, Kyushu University / Professor, International Strategy Planning Office, Kyushu University) Saori Yabumoto (Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. Policy Research and Consulting Group Human Capital and Organizational Strategy Division Senior Researcher) Industry-University Collaboration Office Innovation and Environment Policy Bureau Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Short Break (20min.)
16:20 - 17:50 Special Session only (EN/JP)	Parallel Sessions *The special session and the student workshop will run in parallel at different venues. Special Session "Foreign National Doctoral Talent: Settling and Succeeding in Japan" Student Workshop (Open to Forum Participants for Observation) "Advancing Well-Being for Doctoral Students: Recommendations Development Workshop" Short Break (20min.)
18:10 - 19:30	Reception

Day 2 **12/19** Sat 9:30 - 12:00

9:00	Doors Open
9:30 - 10:45 EN/JP	Graduate Student Presentations "Advancing Well-Being for Doctoral Students: Presentation of Recommendations to Diverse Stakeholders"
10:45 - 11:45 ZOOM EN/JP	Featured Guest Talk Kazuto Ataka (Faculty of Environment and Information Studies/Professor, Keio University; Senior Strategist at LY Corporation)
11:45 - 12:00	Closing Remarks Executive Vice President for Education, Kyushu University

Speakers



Seishi Okamoto
Corporate Executive Officer
EVP, Head of Fujitsu Research

Keynote Speech 12/18 (Fri)

Since joining Fujitsu Laboratories in 1991, he has been engaged in research related to artificial intelligence. In 2011, he moved to a business development division focused on big data, where he worked on the business application of machine learning technologies while also fostering and developing numerous data scientists.

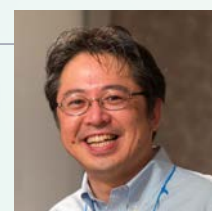
In 2014, he returned to Fujitsu Laboratories and subsequently served as Director of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and Corporate Executive Fellow. Since 2023, he has held his current position.

He has held academic appointments as a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo and the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and is currently a Visiting Professor at Institute of Science Tokyo. He also serves on various external committees, including the Advisory Board of the Institute of Mathematics for Industry (IMI), Kyushu University.

In addition, he has promoted Japan's first professional doctorate program for working professionals of excellence, with a strong focus on the social implementation of technology and the development of human talent. He holds a Doctor of Science degree.

Featured Guest Talk 12/19 (Sat)

He is also Representative Director of the nonprofit "A Worthy Tomorrow," and a founding board member and Skills Definition Committee Chair of the Data Scientist Association of Japan. He has contributed to major Japanese government policy initiatives spanning AI, data, and science and technology. Previously, he served as Chief Strategy Officer at Yahoo! JAPAN for a decade from 2012, and before that spent 11 years at McKinsey & Company. He holds an MS in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of Tokyo and a PhD in Neuroscience from Yale University, and is the author of the national bestsellers *Issue Driven*, *Shin Nihon*, and *Valley of the Wind*.



Kazuto Ataka
Faculty of Environment and
Information Studies/Professor,
Keio University; Senior
Strategist at LY Corporation



◀ Official website