



Dr Keiichiro Komatsu, Principal

Biographical Information

Dr Komatsu has had distinguished careers in both business and academia. For ten years to 1989 he worked for the Japanese semi-governmental Central Co-operative Bank for Commerce and Industry (The Shoko Chukin Bank), firstly in Tokyo and then as Assistant Vice-President in New York. His experience in Tokyo includes undertaking much fieldwork and dealing with financing, deposits, debentures and establishing a foreign exchange section in Ikebukuro, Tokyo. In New York, he worked as a currency trader on Wall Street. The Bank finances business co-operatives and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

After spending four years at the University of Oxford and being granted a doctorate in International Relations, Dr Komatsu became Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Consultant to the World Bank where he matched SMEs with companies in developing countries. He was in charge of planning an economic mission to Madagascar and Mauritius in 1996 for which he secured the participation of 43 Japanese companies covering many different market sectors. Dr Komatsu accompanied the mission, co-ordinated its activities and provided advice. He was also involved in establishing the financial banking institution for Malagasy SMEs known as FASP (fonds d'appui au secteur privé). This institution was funded by the World Bank via the government of Madagascar.

He was based in London from October 1996 until the end of September 2000 as the Senior Trade Advisor to the British government's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and subsequently British Trade International. He was assigned by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), an agency of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to support the DTI's Action Japan Campaign, with the task of building links between British and Japanese businesses. He was honoured to be the first JETRO appointee to work within the DTI/British Trade International.

After working as an industrial researcher for JETRO in Egypt in late 2000 and 2001, he was appointed as the JETRO Senior Fellow, in charge of country risk assessment and business opportunity analysis.

In October 2000, Dr Komatsu was appointed as the Director for the Industrial Promotion Initiative and Representative in Europe of the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE). He is now their Representative in Europe, Middle East and Africa (on a voluntary basis). On the basis of this capacity, he has visited Kenya many times since 2003 to support the joint programme "The Forests for the Future" between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the FGPE.

Dr Komatsu has lectured extensively and written on a wide range of international topics, including business promotion as well as trade and investment, in both the UK and Japan. He has regularly given presentations on Economic Developments in the Pacific Rim Region between March 1998 and June 2006 at the Warwick Manufacturing Group, the University of Warwick. Dr Komatsu is one of the three Researchers in Economics and Political Studies at the Institute for Economic Studies, Seijo University in Tokyo.

He has increasingly been involved in Africa, including Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Mauritius and the Seychelles. He was appointed as Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Madagascar on 4 September 2008. Since the coup d'état, his role changed from trade investment promotion to a highly diplomatic role where he and his colleagues made their very best efforts to re-establish a legitimate government in the country. In 2013, an internationally recognised election was held and a new President of the Republic was elected. This experience has given a new dimension to the work at KRA.

Dr Komatsu has been running the Komatsu Research and Advisory (KRA), which he established in March 2005.

Other activities include:

- Cross-cultural Business Training Consultant to Cartus Corporation (formerly Cendant Intercultural), Prudential, Berlitz, and IOR.

Qualifications:

- Certified Specialist of Finance and Business Operations for Co-operatives of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, granted by the National Federation of Small Business Associations in Japan
- Certified Specialist of Legal Affairs in Banking (Highest Level), authorised by the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan
- Certified Specialist of Foreign Exchange dealing in Banking (Highest Level), authorised by the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan
- Sales License to Deal Securities, granted by the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan

Membership of Professional Societies:

- Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), London, UK
- International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, UK
- Oxford University Alastair Buchan Club (University of Oxford), UK

Membership of other Societies

- The Japan Society, London, UK
- Burma Campaign Society, London, UK
- Anglo-Japanese Society (University of Cambridge), UK
- Oxford University Japan Society (University of Oxford), UK

- Oxford Union Society (University of Oxford), UK