

Panellists

English edition

2026

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01

Ms. Makoto Shigei

After graduating from Hokkaido University, I moved to Sweden in 2019 with a Rotary Foundation scholarship to study at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). I had never lived outside Japan and expected to stay for two years, but I came to enjoy both academic life and living in Sweden.

I went on to pursue a PhD at Uppsala University. Doctoral research was rewarding but demanding: I learned to work independently while navigating self-doubt and uncertainty about an academic career. Through collaborations with industry and work related to European water policy, I became interested in using research to address practical environmental challenges.

Today, I work as a process engineer and researcher at IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute. I contribute to applied research and pilot projects on sustainable water and wastewater treatment with municipalities, companies and universities. In this talk, I will reflect on my journey from master's studies and doctoral research to job searching and applied research, sharing the opportunities and decisions that shaped my path.

02

Mr. Loïc Pecondon-Lacroix

President and Representative Director, ABB K.K.

Since April 2024, he has served as Country Holding Officer of ABB K.K. ABB Japan consists of ABB K.K. and its affiliated companies, with approximately 600 employees and a sales and service network spanning 13 locations across Japan. ABB is a global technology leader in electrification and automation, committed to enabling a more sustainable and resource-efficient future. By combining engineering expertise with digitalization, ABB helps improve industrial performance and enhance efficiency, productivity, and sustainability, enabling customers to achieve superior outcomes.

03

Ms. Keiko Asano

Managing Director/Financial Controller, Munters K.K.

Munters is a Swedish climate solutions company and a global leader in dehumidification and air treatment technologies. Throughout her career in multinational companies, she has worked primarily in finance and business leadership. Her journey from finance to managing director has given her a broad perspective on both strategy and operations. As a female leader in a global organization, she values collaboration, diversity, and continuous learning. She looks forward to sharing her experiences and discussing the opportunities that international careers can offer.

04

Mr. Jonas Alvin

Marketing Manager at Stockholm Business Region

We open the door to Stockholm! We are the official business and destination development agency for the City of Stockholm, responsible for the international promotion and strategic development of the city. We are dedicated to promoting and developing our city as an attractive and sustainable destination for business, international investors, talent and visitors.

05

Ms. Hui Jansons

International Advisor at the International Relations Office of KTH Royal Institute of Technology

She has more than 15 years of experience in international higher education at Swedish universities, with expertise in international academic partnerships, international student recruitment, and global student mobility. She is passionate about connecting students from around the world with study opportunities in Sweden and fostering international collaboration. In this session, she will introduce KTH and share insights into the educational and career opportunities available to international students in Sweden.

06

Mr. Subaru Hiranuma

Chairman of Sweden Alumni Network Japan

Subaru Hiranuma is the Chairman of SWAN Japan. While studying at Waseda University's School of International Liberal Studies, he attended Lund University in Sweden as an exchange student from 2010 to 2011, focusing his studies on political science and economics.

He currently works in payment operations at a foreign financial company in the payments industry. Before taking on his current role, he served as a board member of SWAN Japan, and he is now in his third year as Chairman. Maintaining close ties with the Embassy of Sweden and related organizations, he represented the network at Expo 2025 Osaka during Sweden's National Day, where he had the honor of bearing the Swedish flag in the official ceremony and greeting His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf.

He has also actively participated in various key initiatives, including the "Study & Work in Sweden" event held at the Expo. Serving as a vital bridge between both nations, he continues to promote educational and professional opportunities in Sweden.

07

Ms. Reina Ito

Karolinska Institutet, 2023.06-2026.01

After graduating from The Jikei University School of Medicine, she completed her postgraduate training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Tokyo and became a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist in Japan. Inspired by study abroad experiences in Germany and the United States during medical school, she decided to pursue fields that were not yet widely established in Japan. She subsequently earned master's degrees in aesthetic medicine in the United Kingdom and nutrition science at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. She then joined the Swedish startup SKINOME, where she was involved in clinical research on the skin microbiome. She currently practices as both an obstetrician-gynecologist and an aesthetic physician, with a particular focus on comprehensive women's healthcare. In addition to her clinical work, she collaborates with companies in Japan, the United States, and Sweden.

08

Dr. Takuya Iwaki

School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, 2011.08-2012.01 (Exchange program), 2016.05-2021.03 (PhD program)

He studied control engineering and aerospace engineering at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Sweden as an exchange student from 2011 to 2012. After working in industry, he returned to KTH in 2016 and received his Ph.D. in 2021. His research specializes in control theory. He is currently engaged in R&D on spacecraft control at a research institution in Japan.

09

Ms. Miharu Onoda

Lund University, 2022.06-2023.08, 2024.08-2026.06

During her bachelor's degree in economics at Hitotsubashi University, she studied at Lund University as an exchange student. She learned Swedish economic history and became interested in Sweden's regional policies. After her bachelor's degree, she began a master's programme in Human Geography at Lund University, where she deepened her interest in Sweden's regional planning, with a focus on the built environment, innovation, and mobility. She graduated in June 2026 and later started working as a tax consultant in Japan. She is also exploring ways to continue her research.