

Japan Global Capital Markets Conference
Opening Remarks by Yutaka Ito
Commissioner, Financial Services Agency, Government of Japan
Tokyo, Japan, 19 October 2026

Good afternoon.

Thank you very much for joining us today at the Japan Global Capital Markets Conference.

It is a great pleasure to welcome representatives from IOSCO, fellow regulators and supervisors, financial institutions, investors, issuers, and other market participants from Japan and around the world.

Your presence here reflects our shared commitment to strengthening capital markets and ensuring that they continue to support innovation, investment, and sustainable economic growth.

Today's conference is held under the theme of:

"Maintaining Trust While Enabling the Continued Evolution of Capital Markets."

I believe this theme captures one of the most important challenges facing policymakers and market participants today.

Capital Markets at a Time of Transformation

Global capital markets are undergoing a period of profound transformation.

Technological innovation is changing the way financial services are delivered. Artificial intelligence is creating new opportunities while also introducing new risks. Digital assets and tokenization are opening new possibilities for investment and market infrastructure.

At the same time, the landscape of capital formation is evolving.

Private markets have expanded significantly, providing new sources of growth capital. Companies today enjoy greater flexibility in choosing how they raise funds. Investors likewise have access to a broader range of investment opportunities.

These developments have increased dynamism and innovation across financial markets.

Yet they also raise important questions.

How can we preserve market integrity in a rapidly changing environment?

How can we maintain investor confidence while embracing innovation?

How can we ensure that capital markets continue to allocate resources efficiently and support sustainable economic growth?

These are questions that no jurisdiction can answer alone.

While market structures differ across countries, the underlying challenges are increasingly shared. This makes international dialogue and cooperation more important than ever.

It is precisely for this reason that forums such as today's conference are so valuable.

Japan's Perspective

For Japan, revitalizing investment and innovation is essential to achieving sustainable economic growth.

In July this year, the government formulated Japan's Growth Strategy and the Financial Services Strategy. Together, these initiatives reflect a simple but important recognition: **capital markets matter**.

Capital markets play a vital role in mobilizing private capital, supporting innovation, facilitating business transformation, and creating opportunities for households to participate in economic growth.

Based on this recognition, Japan will continue to pursue a broad agenda to strengthen its capital markets.

This includes encouraging a shift of household savings toward productive investment, enhancing the asset management industry, and supporting the supply of growth capital to startups and innovative businesses.

We will also continue corporate governance reform to improve companies' value creation and sustainable growth. Vibrant capital markets ultimately depend on companies that create long-term value and on investors who have confidence in the fairness and integrity of markets.

Japan is committed to strengthening its position as an attractive destination for investment and as a market where innovation and growth can flourish.

To this end, we firmly believe that trust is the foundation of vibrant capital markets.

Markets can attract investment and support growth only when investors have confidence in their fairness, transparency, and integrity.

For that reason, maintaining trust must remain at the center of our efforts, even as markets continue to evolve.

Three Themes for Today's Discussion

The three panel discussions that follow will focus on key aspects of this broader challenge.

The first theme is “Building Trust in Evolving Capital Markets: Innovation, Market Integrity, and Suptech.”

Throughout history, innovation has been a powerful driver of market development.

Today, advances in artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and data analytics are creating opportunities to enhance efficiency, broaden access, and improve the quality of financial services.

At the same time, they are challenging traditional approaches to oversight and risk management.

Authorities around the world are exploring how technology can also strengthen supervision and enforcement.

The key question is not whether innovation should proceed, but how innovation and trust can advance together.

How can we harness new technologies while maintaining market integrity, transparency, and investor protection?

I hope today's discussion will provide valuable insights into achieving that balance.

The second theme is “Revitalising Public Markets: Liquidity, Participation and Competitiveness.”

Public markets remain at the heart of the financial system.

They provide transparency, price discovery, and access to capital on a broad scale.

To support growth companies and encourage greater household participation in investment, we need markets that are liquid, accessible, and internationally competitive.

This objective is particularly important in Japan as we seek to channel more household financial assets toward productive investment.

At the same time, many jurisdictions are examining how public markets can remain attractive compared to private markets.

Strengthening liquidity, broadening participation, and enhancing market functioning are challenges shared across borders.

I look forward to an engaging discussion on how public markets can continue to serve investors, issuers, and society effectively.

The third theme is “Private Markets: Innovation, Flexibility and Emerging Risks.”

Private markets are becoming an increasingly significant source of financing in many jurisdictions for startups, innovative businesses, and growing companies.

In Japan, diversifying channels of growth capital is an important priority. This is particularly relevant for supporting startups, fostering deep-tech innovation, facilitating business transformation, and addressing business succession in a rapidly changing economy.

At the same time, as private markets continue to expand globally, attention is increasingly focused on issues such as transparency, valuation practices, governance, and investor protection.

How can we harness the benefits of private markets while ensuring that risks remain appropriately understood and managed?

I hope today's discussion will help deepen our understanding of this important issue and identify ways to maximize the contribution of private markets to sustainable economic growth.

Closing

Let me conclude.

The topics we will discuss today are diverse.

Yet they are united by a common objective: **to build capital markets that are both innovative and trusted, dynamic and resilient.**

The future of capital markets will not be shaped by any single authority, institution, or jurisdiction.

It will be shaped through dialogue, cooperation, and a shared commitment to learning from one another.

That is why gatherings such as this are so valuable.

I hope today's discussions will generate new ideas, deepen mutual understanding, and further strengthen cooperation among all of us who share responsibility for the future of global capital markets.

Thank you once again for your participation.

I wish you a productive and successful conference.

Thank you very much.