



The **Association for Women in Finance** presents:

## Demystifying Board Directorship

with

**Nicholas Benes** (*Board Director Training Institute of Japan*),  
**Mihoko Manabe** (*Torii Pharmaceutical Board Director*)  
and **Mariko Semetko** (*AWF*)

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Please note: this is an in-person event and will be held in English.

AWF is delighted to invite you to a panel discussion on the topic **of Demystifying Board Directorship**.

As corporate governance becomes an increasingly critical aspect of business success, understanding the role and responsibilities of external board members is more important than ever. But what does it truly take to serve as a board director? How can independent directors add value to an organization, and what skills are necessary to navigate the challenges of corporate governance?

Join us for an insightful panel discussion as Nicholas Benes and Mihoko Manabe share their experiences and motivation behind becoming board members. They will take us through their different journeys to board directorship and highlight the most rewarding aspects of the role. They will also address common misconceptions about board membership and provide strategies for overcoming them.

This session will provide valuable perspective for finance professionals, executives, and those aspiring to take on a board position in the future. Whether you are currently serving on a board or looking to deepen your understanding of corporate governance, this event will offer actionable insights and networking opportunities with industry experts.

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### Panelists



**Nicholas Benes** is the Representative Director of The Board Director Training Institute of Japan and an independent board director at ADVANTEST. Nicholas has also advised the Japanese Cabinet on FDI policy, and in 2013 proposed to the government Japan's first corporate governance code, including its reference to diversity. In 2016, he proposed changes to the Company Pension Law, leading to a study group that encouraged corporate pension funds to sign the Stewardship Code in 2017.



**Mihoko Manabe, CFA** is an independent board member of Torii Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Formerly she was also on the board of Moody's Japan as well as the Association for Women in Finance (AWF). She built a distinguished career in credit at Moody's in New York, before coming to Tokyo in 2017 to head Moody's Tokyo Corporate Finance Group.



(Moderator)

**Mariko Semetko** serves as an Associate Managing Director for the Corporate Finance Group at Moody's Ratings. Based in Tokyo, she manages a team of analysts responsible for Japanese non-financial corporates and public infrastructure finance. She moved to the Tokyo office in 2013 from Moody's New York office. Mariko is a board member of Moody's Japan and AWF.

Doors for this in-person event open at 6:00 p.m. and the panel discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Media policy: please note that this event will be off the record.

Please sign up at the link below before Friday, March 28 at 5:00 p.m. (JST)

**Registration link:** <https://awflm.wufoo.com/forms/r1jficnu0xbd0fy/>

**Cost** inclusive of buffet and drinks.

Members and employees of corporate member firms: **¥1,000**

Student Members: **¥1,000** (with I.D.) / Guests: **¥3,000**

**Please send any cancellations before the signup deadline so that we are able to adjust the catering costs. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.**

This event will be held at the office of **Moody's**  
**Atago Green Hills, Mori Tower 20 Fl., 2-5-1, Atago, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6220**

### Enhance Your Corporate Governance Knowledge with BDTI

The **Board Director Training Institute of Japan (BDTI)**, a non-profit Japanese "public interest" organization certified by the government, was established in 2009 by experts and opinion leaders active in academic and business circles. BDTI's mission is to increase trust between corporations and the public, and facilitate the safe, sustainable and ethical development of the Japanese economy and Japanese companies, by improving corporate governance and accelerating the spread of effective management methods. BDTI offers a range of courses, **including its next Financial Training Course in May**. Don't miss this opportunity to equip yourself with the essential financial knowledge required for board roles. For more details, please visit:

BDTI「ファイナンス塾」

(Finance for non-finance professionals)

<https://bdti.or.jp/director-training/course/finance/>

BDTI's standard director training courses

<https://bdti.or.jp/director-training/>