

Innovative City Forum 2020 to be Held Online for First Time

— Will consider global cities and lifestyles in post-COVID-19 world —

Tokyo, October 9, 2020 — Mori Art Museum and Academyhills operated by Mori Building Co., Ltd., and the Mori Memorial Foundation's Institute for Urban Strategies will hold the Innovative City Forum (ICF) 2020 from November 16 to November 27, deploying an online format for the first time since the launch of the conference.

The ICF has been held annually since 2013 to discuss how to design the future of global cities and lifestyles. Global opinion leaders including scholars, researchers, engineers, artists, designers, enterprise managers, and journalists come from diverse fields of endeavor, both from within Japan and abroad, to discuss the future of lifestyles in the context of technological innovation, and the future of cities that underscore those lifestyles. To date, 368 speakers have presented at the forum.

This year's event will feature the theme "The Pandemic and Innovative Cities." Breakout sessions will be held online every day during the forum's 12-day period ("ICF Week"). In the closing session on the final day, Markus Gabriel, the noted philosopher and Germany's youngest chairholder in philosophy as the professor of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bonn, will join the discussion with Fumio Nanjo, Senior Adviser to the Mori Art Museum, as the moderator. Also, the distinguished facilitators from the three main sessions will attend the closing session to deepen the concluding discussion with their insights.



Markus Gabriel
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The global pandemic has brought about intense changes that have affected people's values and lifestyles in an astonishingly short period of time. How will these changes affect the post-COVID-19 society? The participants will consider possible post-COVID-19 cities and lifestyles not only in terms of changes to date, but also in terms of what changes should or should not be encouraged from multiple perspectives such as cities, societies, culture and art.

Mori Building cooperates with leading research institutes, universities and companies to jointly research and verify urban concepts, often by using Roppongi Hills and other Hills-brand urban complexes as platforms for testing and communicating ideas. Mori Building is committed to examining futuristic cities and lifestyles and pursuing urban development that spawns innovation, including to enhance Tokyo's magnetic power as a global city.

【Innovative City Forum 2020 Event Outline】

Date: Monday, November 16 - Friday, November 27, 2020

Format: Online

Application : Via website (<http://icf.academyhills.com>) starting from Mon., Oct. 16

Breakout sessions/Closing Session (Free viewing online)

Follow-up session*after each Breakout session (¥1,000 each, max 20 people)

* At Follow-up session, participants can have two-way communication with speakers including Q&A.

Organizers: Institute of Urban Strategies, Mori Art Museum and Academyhills

Supported by: The Japan Foundation Asia Center

■ **Art and Science Session (Fumio Nanjo, Mori Art Museum)**

The Pandemic and the Expansion of Human Perception: World brought about by the fusion of real and virtual

Online interactions, which has become commonplace during COVID-19, is transforming our worldview by fusing the real and virtual. In this situation, real spaces may be required more than ever to serve as places that appeal to human perception. The session will look at how art connects human perception and invisible realities, and new potential of cities as the sites of grand collisions between people and people, but also between people and information, interaction and separation, and the individual and the collective.

■ **Brainstorming Session (Heizo Takenaka, Academy Hills)**

Transformation of Human Behavior Brought about by DX and New Normal — How can human beings evolve?

Due to COVID-19, human activities have shifted to online and digitization has spread worldwide. While humans are evolving in line with their technology, it can be said that human consciousness and sensibilities are not keeping up with the speed of technological evolution. This session will brainstorm how humans should evolve in the new era defined by digital transformation (DX) and the New Normal.

■ **Urban Strategy Session (Hiroo Ichikawa, Institute for Urban Strategies)**

Structural Changes in World Cities: What constitutes a fascinating city in the post-COVID-19 era?

COVID-19 has greatly altered workstyles and lifestyles in major cities, but how will it transform cities and structures in the future? Also, how can we understand the essence of cities through this process? This session will connect experts worldwide via online to examine post-COVID-19 cities from multiple perspectives, including sociological, architectural & urban planning, and environmental, not only to consider envisioned changes but how to turn these changes into city assets.

■ **Closing Session**

The Pandemic and Innovative Cities

The brilliant young German philosopher Markus Gabriel will help us look at the roles and purposes of cities and lifestyles in the post-COVID-19 world, drawing on discussions from each sessions, and providing further insight and new perspectives.

Innovative City Forum Program Committee



(left) Heizo Takenaka: “Japan’s new government has decided to establish a digital policy agency that will put digital transformation into full swing in Japan. In the midst of this tremendous change, I would like to reexamine our ways of living from diverse angles.”

(middle) Hiroo Ichikawa: “The fight against infectious diseases, such as plague, cholera and SARS, has been an inevitable challenge for cities in their long history. Overcoming COVID-19, however, will also undoubtedly create a new future for cities.”

(right) Fumio Nanjo: “The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we look at the world and life. It is time to recognize the reality of this situation, based on which we should consider what we can and should do in the future.”

International Media Inquiries

Public Relations, Mori Building Co., Ltd.

Tel +81 (0)3-6406-6606 Fax +81 (0)3-6406-9306

E-mail koho@mori.co.jp

Weber Shandwick Japan

Reina Matsushita (+81 (0)80 2375 0295),

Mayuko Harada (+81 (0)90 9006 4968) or Masashi Nonaka (+81 (0)80 1037 7879)

E-mail moribldg@webershandwick.com