International Advisory Board
Steven Butler has worked as a journalist throughout Asia, writing for the Financial Times and The Christian Science Monitor from South Korea in the mid-1980s, before joining the staff of the Financial Times and reporting in Southeast Asia, London and Tokyo, including regular reporting visits to China. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and has lived and worked in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China.
Hiroaki Yabe started working in Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, in April 2011, one month after the Great East Japan Earthquake. He launched Sokoage, a nonprofit that supports young people’s learning and empowerment. Sokoage currently focuses on human resource development for high school students. Since April 2018, Yabe has also worked as a lecturer in the Department of Community Design at Tohoku University of Art and Design. His motto is “action is a message.”

Hiroaki Yabe

Executive Director, Sokoage; Professor, Tohoku University of Art and Design

Japan
Dr. Gerd Kopper was the chair for policy, economics, and the law of mass media at the Journalism Institute of the University of Dortmund (Germany) from 1978 to 2006. He previously worked as a journalist, editor, foreign correspondent, and consultant. Dr. Kopper headed a number of large-scale international research projects. He is author and editor of over 30 books and numerous articles in his fields of expertise.
Kaori Matsui began her career in Tokyo as a newscaster for Tokai Television Broadcasting’s News Department. Since 2002, she worked in various investment and management positions including managing director of Toho Cinemas. In 2015, Matsui was part of the team that launched the Japan Innovation & Succession Inc. and the Japan Innovation & Succession Fund, which research and implement ways of management that can contribute to society.

Kaori Matsui
Representative Director, Japan Innovation & Succession Fund; Representative Director, Japan Innovation & Succession Inc.
Japan
Robert J. Rosenthal served as executive director of the Center for Investigative Reporting from 2008 to 2017, during which time the center grew into one of the largest nonprofit investigative reporting organization in the US. Prior to joining CIR, Rosenthal worked as a reporter and later executive editor for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and as managing editor of the San Francisco Chronicle. He has also taught classes at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.
Charles Lewis is executive editor of the Investigative Reporting Workshop at American University in Washington, D.C. A MacArthur Fellow, former ABC News and CBS News 60 Minutes producer, and best-selling author or co-author of six books, he founded two Pulitzer Prize-winning nonprofit new organizations, the Center for Public Integrity and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.
Born in Tainan, Taiwan, I-Hsuan Lin completed a master’s in newspaper studies at National Taiwan University. She also completed a master’s and doctorate in social informatics at the University of Tokyo’s Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Her research focuses on journalism, alternative media, and ethnic media studies. She teaches with the aim of empowering students to create a new journalistic culture and news organizations.
Tatsuro Hanada is a sociologist specializing in media studies and journalism research. He is a professor emeritus of both Waseda University and the University of Tokyo. Born in Nagasaki Prefecture in 1947, Hanada completed a master’s in communication studies at the University of Munich. Before retiring in March 2018, he served as director of the Waseda University Institute of Journalism, which is where Tansa (then known as Waseda Chronicle) began.