



Checkmate Goes Global with Japanese Office

Checkmate Japan's decorated leadership team will bolster international client base

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Tokyo/Washington, D.C. – Checkmate Government Relations on Thursday announced the formation of Checkmate Japan, an international office headquartered in Tokyo.

The Checkmate Japan team is comprised of some of the country's most respected government affairs and business leaders. Together with Checkmate's team in Washington, they will offer unprecedented global reach and unparalleled expertise for domestic and international clients alike.

"What began as a boutique lobbying shop in rural North Carolina is now a global firm with the capacity to serve companies, leaders or causes across the world," said Ches McDowell, Checkmate's Managing Partner. "It's a testament to the skill and work ethic of every member of our team. I could not be more excited to launch our new office with some of the very best in Japan."

"We are honored and excited to join one of America's fastest-growing and most effective government relations firms," said Takeo Kawamura, Chairman of Checkmate Japan.

"Together we will do remarkable things for our clients."

For more on Checkmate, visit checkmategr.com.

CHECKMATE JAPAN - MEET THE TEAM

Chairman: Takeo Kawamura

(Former Chief Cabinet Secretary under the Aso Administration)

Mr. Takeo Kawamura was born in 1942 and graduated from the Faculty of Commerce at Keio University. He was first elected to the Yamaguchi Prefectural Assembly in 1976 and to the House of Representatives in 1990. Over the course of ten terms in the National Diet, he held key government posts including Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Chief Cabinet Secretary, making significant contributions to Japan's education policy and administrative reform. As Chairman of the Japan-Korea Parliamentary Friendship League, he worked to strengthen bilateral relations with South Korea. He also served as Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's General Council, Chairman of the Election Strategy Committee, Chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee, and Chairman of the Electoral System Research Commission.

At Checkmate Japan, he oversees the company's overall strategy and serves as a key liaison with government and industry leaders.

Chief Executive Officer: Nicholas Eoanou

Nicholas Eoanou ("Niko") serves as Chief Executive Officer of Checkmate Japan. He brings extensive experience across Southeast Europe, Türkiye, the MENA region, and Asian markets, with a background spanning both political and business arenas.

Niko began his career as an entrepreneur, establishing multiple ventures before progressing into the structuring of EPC contracts for ENR companies. He later moved into the energy and defense sectors, where he has acted as a trusted advisor and overseer, helping ensure projects stay on track and minimizing disputes and misunderstandings. With decades of experience engaging government entities, he specializes in reducing risks and liabilities for foreign companies entering complex markets.

Known for his ability to build strong relationships with both longstanding and new clients, and for his practical problem-solving approach, Niko stands out as a leader who consistently delivers results.

A Connecticut native, he studied Finance at Sacred Heart University. Niko is a devoted member of the Greek Orthodox Church and actively supports various nonprofit organizations that aid nations affected by natural disasters.

At Checkmate Japan, he leads the company's overall strategy and acts as a primary liaison between Checkmate Japan and Checkmate USA, working to strengthen business ties between Japan and the United States.

Chief Communications Officer: Kenichi Kawamura

Visiting Associate Professor, Graduate School of Yamaguchi University / Former Secretary to the Chief Cabinet Secretary

Kenichi Kawamura was born in 1976. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at Aoyama Gakuin University and completed his master's degree at the Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, Graduate School of the University of Tokyo. He has held key governmental positions including Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Policy Secretary to a Member of the House of Representatives. At the Cabinet Secretariat's Office for Space Policy, he played a central role in drafting Japan's Basic Plan for Space Policy.

With deep expertise in space policy, science and technology strategy, and remote sensing, he currently serves as a Visiting Associate Professor at Yamaguchi University and as Strategic Advisor to the university's Center for Satellite Remote Sensing. At Checkmate Japan, he is responsible for policy development and strategic planning, focusing on space strategy, national security, and government advisory initiatives.

Assistant to the Chairman & Chief Marketing Officer: Masaya Yoshikawa

Secretary-General and Chief Secretary, Political Organization of Takeo Kawamura, Former Chief Cabinet Secretary

Born in 1977, Masaya Yoshikawa began his career at a major corporation after graduating from university. Following hands-on experience in the private sector, he engaged in consulting work across multiple fields. Through a wide range of projects — including business strategy, marketing, business development, and policy advocacy — he developed a practical and adaptable skill set.

He later assumed the role of Chief Secretary to former Chief Cabinet Secretary and Member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Takeo Kawamura. He currently serves as Secretary-General of Mr. Kawamura's political organization, where he oversees operations and manages extensive networks across the political sphere.

At Checkmate Japan, Yoshikawa serves as Assistant to the Chairman and Chief Marketing Officer, where he is responsible for building and aligning internal structures, driving key projects, and enhancing collaboration with both government and private sectors.

In his personal life, he maintains a strong focus on self-discipline and persistence through running, strength training, and swimming.

Chief Operational Officer: John Kim

John Kim received his academic training at the University of Pennsylvania, establishing a strong foundation in advanced business management. This expertise continues to attract leading companies from Korea, the United States, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, and Germany, who rely on his strategic insight and extensive international network to drive growth and operational excellence.

At Checkmate, Japan, he is responsible for operation and strategic planning, focusing on crypto strategy, defense, and government advisory initiatives.

Chief Strategy Officer: Peter Y.H. Cho

Peter Y.H. Cho is an accomplished international business executive with extensive experience across the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and the United States. He has served as an agent and strategic advisor to major Korean and European construction companies, successfully securing large-scale infrastructure projects throughout the Middle East. Leveraging a robust network of relationships across the region, he has also expanded into the defense and IT sectors, delivering significant wins for clients in multiple countries.

Mr. Cho earned his degree from Dongguk University in Korea and pursued further studies at George Mason University in Fairfax, USA. He continues to actively manage complex projects and advisory mandates for clients spanning Asia, the United States, and the Middle East, driving growth and strategic partnerships across diverse industries.

At Checkmate Japan, he is responsible for strategic planning, focusing on strategy, and government relationship initiatives between Middle East and Asia.

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