

Robert Ward

**Director of Geoeconomics & Strategy, Japan Chair -
The International Institute for Strategic Studies**

Economist, Speaker, Advisor



Previous Editorial Director of The Economist Intelligence Unit. Expert on world economy, business issues and industry trends.

Professional experience

- Robert Ward is Director of Geoeconomics & Strategy, Japan Chair at The International Institute for Strategic Studies, an organization that is a world-leading authority on global security, political risk and military conflict.
- Until recently, Robert was the Editorial Director at the Economist Intelligence Unit, where he led the EIU's country, industry and data analysis and forecasting teams. He played a key role in shaping the company's analytical response to global events and has oversight of the editorial integrity and independence of all EIU-branded businesses within the Economist Group.
- Robert is an expert on global political and economic issues, Japan & China business, developed & emerging market economies and politics, political risk analysis, economic forecasting, advisory, new product development & strategy, subscription publishing, online publishing, change management in teams, large-team development and management.
- From 2015-17 Robert led the Economist Corporate Network's editorial teams based in eight regional centres: Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai and Johannesburg
- Prior to this, he led the EIU's Country Analysis team of around 60 country experts, shaping the company's response to global economic and political trends. Before that he led the EIU's Global Forecasting team and published the company's flagship Global Forecasting Service, covering key global economic and political issues and forecasts.
- Robert played a leading role in communicating the EIU's views to high-level audiences around the world. He advises company boards on strategy, gives keynotes at large corporate gatherings and chairs events.
- A fluent speaker of Japanese, he regularly contributes to international and Japanese media and also appears frequently on the BBC, CNN, CNBC and other broadcast media.

Published papers

- Robert has been editor of Global outlook, an Economist Intelligence Unit monthly publication.
- Highlights of articles published in Economist Group publications include: *Asia Regional Overview*, "Emerging Asia automotive markets—a reality Check", Jan 07; *The World in 2005*, "Japan Redux"; *The World in 2004*, "Ageing trailblazer—time to start learning from Japan again"; *Business Asia*, "The joy of ageing", May 2004; *Asia Regional Overview*, "Turning the tables: a comparison of Japanese and South Korean financial sector restructuring", Apr 2003
- He has written countless opinion pieces in non-Economist Group publications include: *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Mainichi Shimbun*, "Chuo Koron and Yomiuri Shimbun".

Sample assignments

- Robert has briefed the Chairmen, CEOs and regional heads of a wide range of financial, industrial, and service companies who are top global clients of the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- His other engagements have been presentations to board members, confidential personal briefings on global outlook or to the international management team, and kick-off presentations at a regional strategy and planning meeting.
- He has spoken at a wide variety of Economist Group conferences including the Economist Intelligence Unit's Asia Strategic Forecast series and CFO and CEO conferences.

Sample Speaking Topics

- The outlook for the global economy, both short- and long-term. Where are the opportunities and risks and what are the key global megatrends?
- Geoeconomics—why this matters and what companies need to do to navigate the weaponisation of economic policy. What is the outlook for the pivotal China/US relationship?
- Political risk is on the rise throughout the rich world. What is the impact on companies and how can companies prepare for associated volatility?
- Systemic rivalry or a way forward? China-EU relations in 2019 and beyond.
- Shifting sands: three key global trends and why they matter for Asia.

Personal biography

- Dec 2019 – Present, Director of Geoeconomics & Strategy, Japan Chair at The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
- 2013 –2019 - Editorial Director, EIU, based in London
- 2015 - 2017 - Global Director, Economist Corporate Network (ECN)
- 2010 - 2013 - Director, Country Publishing
- 2007 - 2010 - Director, Global Forecasting
- 1997 – 2007 - Senior Economist, specialising in Japan, South Korea and North Korea
- 1994 -1996 - Analyst, Japan Bond Research Institute, Tokyo (now Rating and Investment Information)
- He is a fluent speaker of Japanese and regularly contributes to international and Japanese media
- He also appears frequently on the BBC, CNN, CNBC and other broadcast media
- Apart from living in Japan for 7 years, Robert briefly attended Voronezh University in the Soviet Union, and worked in Germany for 2 years
- Robert holds a bachelors and a masters degree from Cambridge University

Client testimonials

Comments from participants in conferences that Robert Ward has spoken at:

- *"You have a star speaker in Robert Ward. Thank you for lending him to our conference!"*
- *"His talk was informative, relevant, brilliantly focused and delivered with such style and aplomb"*
- *"One of the best presentations that I've heard on Japan"*