

2025 Conference of New England Japan-focused Nonprofits

National Organization Panel

Participant Biographies

Andrew Wylegala has served since 2023 as the President of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS), the largest and oldest umbrella group of its type, covering a network of about 40 independent nonprofit societies with over 12,000 corporate and individual members. He promotes the hugely important U.S.-Japan relationship across various subject matters with a focus on people-to-people or "grassroots" ties.



Andrew had a far-ranging government career, from a start as a Presidential Management Fellow to culmination as a member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service, serving in eight overseas posts, including Hong Kong, Seoul, and Tokyo, where he led a team of 40 from the U.S. Embassy as Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs from 2012-2017. As a Professor of Practice at the National Defense University, he taught economics and industry analysis to security policy practitioners. From high school through graduate studies, Andrew developed his passion for Japan as a Rotary Exchange Student, a Japan-America Student Conference delegate and a Reischauer Center intern at the headquarters of Mitsui & Co. Andrew was also President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan, growing that organization through the challenges of the pandemic and Cross Strait tension. He is a graduate of Cornell University and S.A.I.S. and lives in Washington, D.C.

Contact: wylegala@us-japan.org, [LinkedIn](#), and (202) 594-2249

Bianca Sánchez Álvarez is the Manager of Development & Member Services at the National Association of Japan-America Societies where she leads efforts to expand grant-based programs and a wide range of services for 41-society members and, by extension, those societies' 12,000 members and even more numerous audiences across 30 states and provinces. She joins NAJAS with a strong background in non-profit and event management and promotion, as well as experience as a Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program language teacher in Hiroshima, Japan.



Contact: sanchezalvarez@us-japan.org, [LinkedIn](#)

Dimitri Lorenzon, is Senior Vice President and Head of Investment Risk for MetLife, Inc. Since 2024 he serves as President of CIE-US, the partner in the United States of the John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange. CIE-US helps find and support host cities for Summits in the United States and encourages Americans to participate in Summits in Japan. Dimitri has worked in the life insurance industry for over 27 years in risk management, investment, and strategy roles.



He spent 16 years in Tokyo with AIG and MetLife before returning to the New York area in 2022. He now serves as MetLife's Head of Investment Risk and US Chief Risk Officer and serves on MetLife Japan's Board. Dimitri joined CIE-US in 2023 and became President in 2024. He majored in physics at Brandeis University before earning an MS in Mechanical Engineering at Tufts University. He lives in Greenwich, Connecticut with his wife and two daughters, is a long-time practitioner of Shotokan karate, and enjoys backcountry snowboarding.

Mikiko (Mimi) Morimura is a bilingual Japanese-English educator and community leader dedicated to fostering mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. Originally from Japan, she holds master's degrees in English from Middlebury College and in Teaching English as a Second Language from the School for International Training. For more than twenty years, she taught Japanese language and culture at Classical High School, in Providence, RI. While teaching she developed project-based learning materials and founded the school's Sakura Festival. She now serves as Vice President for Outreach and Fundraising for the **Japan America Society of Southern New England** and as Treasurer of the **Center for International Exchange U.S.**, advancing educational and cultural exchange initiatives. <mmorimura.outreach@jasne-janafa.org>

