
Makoto Washizu

Mr. Makoto Washizu is the President of Japan International Transport Institute, USA (JITI). Prior to the assumption of the current position, he was an Ambassador of Japan to the Slovak Republic and had been working as the Deputy Vice-Minister for Tourism Policy of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) where he had held many important positions since his joining in 1972.

As the Deputy Vice-Minister for Tourism and the Director-General of Tourism Department, he devoted himself to promoting tourism including the “Visit Japan Campaign,” which started in April 2003 and set a target of 10 million foreign visitors to Japan in 2010.

He co-chaired bilateral talks on tourism promotion with the U.S., China, Korea and Australia which consisted of key figures in the government, the tourism industry and the airline industry. During these meetings, concrete measures were discussed on how to increase tourism between countries. He also prepared The Foreign Tourist Attraction Act enacted in 1997, in which a wide variety of policies were established to attract foreign tourists to Japan.

Mr. Washizu has had an additional diplomatic career as a Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Tokyo in 1972 and was a Postgraduate student at the Institute of Transport Economics, University of Leeds, U.K. in 1977 and 78.