秋田県庁在職中、国際教養大学の設置準備・運営に従事。文部科学省に転籍後、2011-2014年、高等教育局国際企画専門官として、Go Global Japan ―経済社会の発展を牽引するグローバル人材育成支援ー、スーパーグローバル大学創成支援事業、大学の世界展開力強化事業、ジョイント・ディグリー制度の策定等、大学の国際化推進施策を担当。また、キャンパス・アジア、AIMS プログラム、UNESCO 東京規約の策定等、特にアジア諸国との高等教育における世界との協調に尽力。その後、京都大学にて企画課長、総長特命補佐、プロボストオフィス室長。2018年高等教育局視学官・大学改革官を経て、2019年7月から高等教育局国際企画室長として大学の国際化を推進。2020年6月、OECD高等教育に関する専門家会合副議長に就任。2020年8月から現職。東京大学大学院教育学研究科博士前期課程修了。

Mr. SATO Kuniaki, Chief Director for University Reform, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, has over 20 years of experiences in higher education policy development. He was engaged in the establishment and management of a public university, Akita International University before transferring to MEXT. From 2011 to 2014, Sato has led the development of a variety of internationalization initiatives of Japan, such as the Go Global Japan project, the Top Global University project, the Inter-University Exchange Project and formulation of Joint Degree Guideline. In addition, he has dedicated to harmonization process in higher education especially with other Asian countries through various initiatives such as CAMPUS Asia Project, AIMS Program, and UNESCO Tokyo Convention. In Kyoto University from 2015 to 2017, he served as Director of Planning, Special Advisor to the President for international strategy, and Director for Office of Provost. After returning to MEXT in 2018, he served as Inspector and Director for University Reform, and since July 2019, Director for Office for International Planning. Vice-Chair of the Group of National Experts on Higher Education, OECD since June 2020. He has been in his current position since August 2020. M.A. in Education, the University of Tokyo.