



# Sustainable Society Design Center Second International Symposium

**Towards a sustainable and inclusive  
society: The capability approach**

NOV  
/6  
2025

Thu

Venue

**Media Hall of Kashiwa Library**

Kashiwa Campus, University of Tokyo

Reception

**9:30~**

**10:00~12:30**

## Overview

Achieving sustainability requires more than just economic growth; it demands an approach that expands human freedom, enhances well-being, and respects planetary boundaries. Human well-being is deeply intertwined with the environment, yet traditional economic indicators often fail to capture the full spectrum of nature's contributions to society. The Capability Approach, pioneered by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, provides a transformative framework for moving beyond conventional economic indicators, such as GDP and HDI, instead focusing on what people can do and be to achieve well-being.

This symposium explores the intersection of capability-based well-being assessments, development indicators, and sustainability transitions, aligning with key Sustainable Development Goals. The discussions will contribute to global efforts to move from traditional economic measures of development to a holistic, capability-driven model of sustainability.

## Program

10:00-10:05 Opening Remarks by Yasuko Kameyama  
(Director, SSDC)

10:05-11:05 Lecture by Flavio Comim

(Professor and Dean, IQS School of Management, Ramon Llull University)

11:05-11:25 Discussant: Makiko Omura (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University)

11:25-11:40 Q and A

11:40-11:45 Closing Ceremony

Networking Session

Round Table Discussion (Students Only)

Bridging Academia and the UN: A Conversation with Flavio Comim

Moderated by Hiroe Ishihara and Eiko Saito

Time 14:00 – 15:00

Venue: Lecture room 3, 3rd floor of Environmental Building, Kashiwa Campus, University of Tokyo



Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Flavio Comim**

Professor at Ramon Llull University and Affiliated Lecturer in Human Development at the University of Cambridge. He is also a Research Associate at the Von Hügel Institute and Visiting Fellow at St Edmund's College. Former Director of the Capability and Sustainability Centre and former Senior Economist at UNDP, with extensive experience consulting for UN agencies.

**SPECIAL  
SESSION FOR  
STUDENTS**

Participation : Free (Register by Oct 20)  
URL: <https://forms.gle/1hNsQyDJ3MfbPzFPA>  
Contact: [mayaye.thiri@k.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:mayaye.thiri@k.u-tokyo.ac.jp)



※This program is subject to change. Your kind understanding is highly appreciated.

This symposium was supported by funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme. The symposium is open to public. However, for the student section, priority will be given to students from the University of Tokyo. Participants from outside UTokyo are kindly requested to contact the organizers in advance.