

The FT Summit: Managing Global Political Risk
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London
Izumi Kobayashi
Opening Remarks

Thank you, Chris.

On behalf of MIGA, I'd like to welcome all of you to this event and thank you for joining us. I would also like to thank our distinguished group of speakers and panelists who are with us today - I am greatly looking forward to hearing from them.

As most of you probably know, MIGA is an agency of the World Bank Group. We opened our doors in 1988 to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives. We do this by providing political risk insurance to the private sector.

We have a number of strategic priorities in terms of how we direct our efforts, with the overall goal of focusing our efforts on those markets where we can add the most value. One of our key priorities is supporting large and complex projects in infrastructure and the extractive industries. Another area of focus South-South investment is another critical dimension of our mission as many South-based investors do not have access to bilateral entities offering the risk-mitigation products available in other markets. We also pay special attention to supporting investments into the world's poorest countries and those that are affected by conflict.

In addition to being a PRI provider, MIGA also is able to draw on its role as a member of the World Bank Group to be a knowledge resource. We conduct research and share publicly information on FDI and the political risk industry at large. We have done most of this work through our online services that many of you are probably familiar with. Now we hope to take this effort to a new level with the report we are launching today. We plan for this to become an annual publication, bringing the investor community a snapshot of political risk perceptions of the largest multinational enterprises.

This report and today's event come as we begin to see signs of a global economic recovery. But we still have a long way to go to return to the levels of growth and the volume of private capital flows that generated positive economic trends in many developing countries.

In this environment, it is useful to understand how investors perceive political risk. This report and this event seek to do just that. If we can understand how investors perceive and deal with risks, we can better appreciate the role of political risk insurance in helping restore foreign direct investment flows to previous levels. It will also help us understand how we can be more effective as an industry in facing challenges in this riskier world and how to help investors mitigate them.

I hope today we all take away a better understanding of what investors need and how we, as an industry, can work more effectively together to bring foreign direct investment into underserved markets. Thank you again for coming today and joining this discussion.