

## 13th CDTI-NEDO Workshop 2025 AI Equipped Collaborative Robot

Date: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### SPEAKERS PROFILES

#### Mr. Takeshi YOSHIDA, Executive Director, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, NEDO



Mr. YOSHIDA Takeshi is an Executive Director at NEDO. He oversees the Startup Support Department, the Frontier Department, and the Technology and Innovation Strategy Center (TSC).

Mr. Yoshida has been with NEDO since 1991. In 2008, he was appointed Chief Representative of the NEDO office in New Delhi. Since 2019, he has held two Director General positions, focused on startup support and general affairs. He was a visiting scholar at Stanford University in 1995. He holds a Master of Technology degree from Waseda University and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Rikkyo University.

#### Mr. Iñigo DE PALACIO, Ambassador of Spain in Japan



Mr. de Palacio has been a member of the Spanish Diplomatic Service since 1983, with extensive experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, international cooperation, and institutional relations.

He began his diplomatic career as Director of Maritime and Land Cooperation within the Directorate-General for International Technical Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in July 1983. In April 1985, he was posted abroad as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain in La Paz, Bolivia. Two years later,

in May 1987, he was appointed Counselor at the Spanish Embassy in Rabat, Morocco.

He returned to Spain in August 1990 to serve as Director of the Support Unit at the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute, part of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. In April 1991, he became Deputy Director-General for Air, Maritime and Land Cooperation within the Directorate-General for International Economic Relations at the MFA.

From April 1993, he served as Consul General of Spain in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In April 1997, he was appointed Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva.

In December 2002, he became Deputy Director-General for United Nations and Security Council Affairs, and in April 2004, he was appointed Ambassador Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York.

In September 2008, he assumed the post of Ambassador of Spain to Serbia and Montenegro, and on July 13, 2009, he was formally appointed Ambassador to Montenegro. From August 2011 to July 2014, he served as Ambassador of Spain to the Republic of Chile.

Following his diplomatic postings, he joined the private sector in July 2014 as Vice-President for Global Institutional Relations in the Office of the President and CEO at Indra Sistemas, Spain's leading multinational company in the technology and innovation sector.

In September 2021, he returned to diplomatic service as Ambassador of Spain to the United Arab Emirates. As of January 2025, he serves as Ambassador of Spain to Japan.

In addition to his diplomatic career, he has also contributed to academia. He has been an Associate Professor of Diplomatic and Consular Law at the Pontifical University Comillas-ICADE in Madrid and an Honorary Professor at the Universidad de San Ignacio de Loyola in Lima, Peru.

Throughout his professional career, he has been honored with several national and international distinctions. In Spain, he has received multiple ranks within the prestigious Order of Civil Merit, including Officer (1998), Commander (2001), and ultimately High Commander in 2006. He was also appointed Officer of the Order of Isabella the Catholic in 1991.

Internationally, he was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Chile in 2015, one of the country's highest honors for foreign nationals. Additionally, in 1987, he was decorated as an Officer of the National Order of the Condor of the Andes by the Government of Bolivia.

#### **Ms. Ángeles VALBUENA, Chief of Foreign Technology Action Department, CDTI**



Ms. Valbuena is an Industrial Engineer specialized in Construction, with further technical studies in Project Management for Renewable Energies. She has 27 years of professional experience in both the public and private sectors, always in international environments. She spent 8 years working for multinational companies in the automotive sector, Tier 1 suppliers in Germany and Spain, mainly focused on the development of new products and processes: Robert Bosch AG, ZF GmbH, and Grupo Antolín.

Since 2017, I have been working for CDTI, the Spanish Innovation Agency under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.

During my time in public administration, I have been part of the Evaluation Directorate, managing projects in the fields of mobility, energy, and construction. I have also managed bilateral programs in the Asia-Pacific region and currently serve as the Head of the Foreign Technology Action Team. In this role, I lead the design and management of international R&D&I collaboration programs aimed at supporting the internationalization of Spanish companies across various sectors and geographic regions. The team consists of a technical group based in Madrid and a network of delegates abroad.

#### **Mr. Kazuhito YOKOI, Director General, Digital Unit, Technology and Innovation Strategy Center (TSC), New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)**



Dr. YOKOI Kazuhito received the M. E. and Ph. D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering Science from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1986 and 1994, respectively. In 1986, he joined the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory (MEL), Ministry of International Trade and Industry. In 2001, he became a senior researcher of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). In 2015, he was the Director of the Intelligent Systems Research Institute, in 2017 he was the Deputy

Director General of the Research Promotion Division of the Department of the Information Technology and Human Factors, in 2020 he was Director General, AIST Tokyo Waterfront and Deputy Director General, Research Promotion Division for Artificial Intelligence, Department of Information Technology and Human Factors, in 2022 he was the Director of the Security and Informatization Promotion Department of AIST.

From 2025, he has been the director general of Digital Unit of the Innovation Strategy Center of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO).

He is also a Guest Senior Researcher (Guest Professor), Future Robotics Organization of Waseda University. From November 1994 to October 1995, he was a Visiting Scholar at Robotics Laboratory, Computer Science Department, Stanford University. He is the Vice President of the Robotics Society of Japan (RSJ) and a fellow of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME) and a member of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society.

**Mr. Aitor GUTIERREZ, HISPAROB (Spanish Robotics Technology Platform). AI Senior researcher, TEKNIKER TECHNOLOGY CENTER**



Mr. Gutiérrez is a computer science engineer and senior researcher at Tekniker, a member of the Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA), which since 2023 has coordinated the Medical and Assistive Robotics Working Group of HispaRob, Spain's national robotics technology platform promoted by the Ministry of Science and Innovation and Universities. He began his career as an iOS developer at an American start-up and, since 2012, has focused on applied R&D in Computer Vision and Artificial Intelligence. His expertise centers on image-based AI across 2D,

3D and hyperspectral modalities, with impact in robotics, industrial quality control, medical imaging, and human monitoring for safer, more intuitive human-robot collaboration.

At Tekniker, he manages multi-disciplinary projects in deep learning-based image processing and generative AI, deploying computer vision on embedded and robotic systems. He has co-authored several papers on image-based AI-Featured projects he has contributed including MANUWORK (collaborative robotics and AI to assist workers with disabilities), GREENPATROL (autonomous robotic platform for pest detection in tomato greenhouses), PICK-PLACE (advanced robotic manipulation), and HARTU (innovative AI-enhanced approaches for robotics).

His research also spans medical image analysis for disease detection and real-time safety systems capable of detecting people, body parts, activities, gestures, emotions and intentions in collaborative environments. Within robotics safety, he has worked on a Proximity Detector System for collaborative robotics that augments this system with AI to detect people, body parts and operator intent for safety.

**Mr. Daniel Hiroshi NEAGARI, Strategic Communicator and International Business Development Specialist, RT Corporation – Overseas Sales Lead**



Daniel Hiroshi Neagari is a multilingual professional with over two decades of experience in diplomatic missions, commercial development, and international coordination. Fluent in Japanese, Spanish, and English, he brings a cross-cultural perspective to global strategy, stakeholder engagement, and technical communication.

Currently serving in the Overseas Sales Department at RT Corporation, Daniel leads international outreach and business development initiatives in robotics and AI, supporting RT's mission to advance service robotics through education, research, and global partnerships.

His most impactful contributions were made during his tenure at the Embassy of Chile in Japan, where he spent nearly a decade facilitating trade relations, promoting Chilean exports, and coordinating bilateral cooperation in agribusiness and technology. His diplomatic career also includes roles with the Embassy of Colombia and the Embassy of Japan in Ecuador.

Daniel also contributed to international environmental initiatives at CTI Engineering, where he was

involved in managing projects across Pakistan, Kenya, Panama, and Malawi. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Administration from Universidad San Francisco de Quito and is known for his strategic communication skills, intercultural fluency, and dedication to advancing innovation through global cooperation.

### Interests & Contributions

Daniel is passionate about science, robotics, telecommunications, and philosophy. He is an avid music and film enthusiast, with a deep appreciation for both mainstream and subculture genres. His interdisciplinary curiosity informs his approach to innovation, education, and global collaboration.

### Mr. Fernando FERNANDEZ, Founder & Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), INROBICS SOCIAL ROBOTICS, S.L.



Mr. Fernández holds a PhD in Computer Science from Universidad Carlos III of Madrid, obtained in 2003 (extraordinary award). He has performed different research stays in important centers related to AI and social robotics, as the Robotics Institute of the University of Texas in Austin (2022-2023) invited by Prof. Peter Stone, the School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Pittsburgh (USA), collaborating with Prof. Manuela Veloso; and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (USA), supervised by Prof. Lynne Parker. The applicant's main

lines of research are Machine Learning and Automated Planning, always oriented to the resolution of real problems, specifically the control of autonomous robots.

He has published more than 50 journal papers in the most important journals of his area, such as JMLR, JAAMAS, IEEE Transactions on NN, Decision Support Systems, JAIR, Computational Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems or IJ of Social Robotics. Some of these papers have received hundreds of citations. He is director of the Planning and Learning Group (PLG) of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at UC3M and has coordinated European (ECHORD++), national and regional.

Among his main international recognitions is the JPMorgan AI Faculty Research Award that he received consecutively in 2020 and 2021 related to the Ph.D. thesis of Óscar Fernández and Rubén Majadas. He advised the winner planner of the Sequential Satisficing Track of the International Planning Competition in 2014, as well as the Temporal Track of the IPC 2018, related to the Ph.D. thesis of Isabel Cenamor.

He is founder of the Inrobics company, a spin-off from UC3M, which received a technology transfer from the university of the registered software NaoTherapist that he authored with two Ph.D. students, José Carlos González and José Carlos Pulido. He is currently the head of the Bachelor in Artificial Intelligence at UC3M.

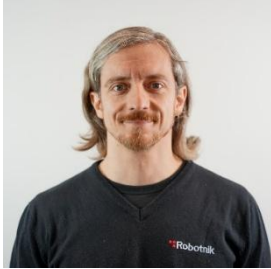
### Mr. Kouji NAKAMURA, President, LOOM.0x



I have been involved in software development for over 20 years, primarily in production, and have a proven track record of supporting a wide range of customers.

For the past five years, I've been exploring the commercialization of a machine learning platform that performs large-scale calculations using machine learning in production management systems.

**Mr. Ángel SORIANO, Chief R&D Officer, ROBOTNIK AUTOMATION, S.L.**



Mr. Soriano holds a Ph.D. in Robotics and Industrial Computing (2017) and a degree in Computer Engineering (2010) from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain.

With more than a decade of experience at the intersection of advanced robotics, industrial automation, and applied AI, he has contributed to the field through international conference presentations and publications in leading journals.

He began his career as a researcher and associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, working on national R&D projects and mentoring engineering students.

Since 2018, he has served as Chief R&D Officer at Robotnik Automation, where he leads the research and development department. In this role, he oversees multiple large-scale European projects, particularly under the Horizon Europe program, focusing on mobile robotics, autonomy, and human–robot collaboration.

His work combines strategic leadership with hands-on technical expertise, fostering innovation in robotics platforms for industrial, defense, and service applications. Beyond robotics, he is passionate about music, photography, and creative technologies, interests that enrich his multidisciplinary approach to research and innovation.

**Mr. Yuto NAKAO, Oversea Market Business Development, Asilla Inc.**



Joined Asilla Inc. as a new graduate in 2021, engaging in solution-based sales utilizing behavior recognition AI technology. Responsible for full-cycle sales of enterprise custom development projects, from lead generation to contract closing.

In 2022, appointed as Assistant Manager in the President's Office, Supported the business division as part of the corporate team during the launch of the company's flagship product, "AI Security asilla".

Responsible for developing and implementing legal frameworks related to personal data protection, and organizing key product operation documents such as the Terms of Use, Privacy Policy.

Also assisted the CFO during fundraising and contributed to securing a government grant led by NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization), Japan's national research and development agency under METI.

In 2024, led the launch of a new business as Product Sales Department Manager, overseeing all aspects of 0→1 business development—from data collection, partner strategy, regulatory research, and sales execution.

Since June, 2025, serving as Overseas Market Business Development, responsible for Asilla's global expansion initiatives.

Graduate of Google for Startups International Sales Academy.

Holder of DELE (Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera) B1.

### Mr. Francesco FERRO, CEO, PAL ROBOTICS, S.L.



Mr. Ferro, is the CEO, co-founder and owner of PAL Robotics, one of the leading service robotics companies worldwide.

He received a BSc+MSc degree in Telecommunications Engineering at the Politecnico di Torino (Italy), a Master at ISEN in Lille (France) and an Executive MBA at the University of Barcelona (Spain) and participated in several conferences and workshops worldwide.

Since 2004, he has been working in the development of state-of-the-art robots especially designed to solve customers' needs, working on several robots, such as REEM-C, TALOS, and Kangaroo humanoid biped robots for research; TIAGo Base, an Autonomous Mobile Robot created to enhance logistics; StockBot, an autonomous retail inventory and data-collection solution; TIAGo, a humanoid robot that combines perception, navigation, manipulation & Human-Robot Interaction, and ARI, the humanoid platform designed for HRI and front-desk activities. Recently, PAL Robotics has also been working on the development of Kangaroo, a jumping robot, and in 2023 launched TIAGo Pro.

Since September 2020, Mr. Ferro has also been president and the sole owner of PAL France Sas, a French company from Toulouse specialised in the development of robotic algorithms for humanoid robots. In September 2023, PAL Robotics also opened a branch in Bari called PAL Italy Srl.

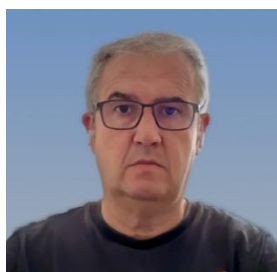
He is Executive Director and treasurer at euRobotics, part of the Board of Directors and Vice President at ADRA (AI, Data, Robotics Association), and Service Robot Group Chair for IFR (International Federation of Robotics). He is also part of the Board of Directors at HispaRob and AER Automation Spanish Robotics Association.

### Mr. Kazuki NEMOTO, CEO, Co-Founder, QueenB, Inc.



Kazuki Nemoto is the CEO and Co-Founder of QueenB Inc., a startup developing automation platforms for wet laboratory experiments using robotics and AI. He has been leading the design of robotic systems and integrated architectures to enhance research reproducibility and efficiency. Nemoto focuses on building foundational technologies for the emerging era of Physical AI and autonomous research environments.

### Mr. Enrique GIL, R&D Projects Manager, DGH ROBOTICA, AUTOMATIZACION Y MANTENIMIENTO INDUSTRIAL, S.A.



Mr. Gil is R&D&I Projects Manager at DGH ROBÓTICA AUTOMATIZACIÓN Y MANTENIMIENTO INDUSTRIAL S.A.U. since 2014, with a strong background in research, innovation, and industrial project management. Assistant professor at UNED (Spain) since 2003, and former associate professor at Valladolid University (2004–2018).

Previously served as General Manager of INVESTIGACIÓN Y DESARROLLO CASTILLA Y LEÓN S.A. (2011–2014), and as R&D&I Engineer and Project Manager at CARTIF Centro Tecnológico (2001–2011).

Active member of the Institute of Advanced Technology of Manufacturing (ITAP) since 2007.

**Mr. Takefumi TANABE, Director General, Technology and Innovation Strategy Center (TSC), (Concurrent) Director General of International Strategy Unit of TSC, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)**



After completing his graduate studies at Waseda University in 1997, he joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (now the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)). Since 2000, he has been engaged in cybersecurity and IT policy at the Cabinet Secretariat, METI, and the Information-technology Promotion Agency (IPA). In recent years, he has led policies on digital transformation (DX) and the development of digital talent, while also promoting productivity improvements and innovation policies for SMEs and startups.

Since 2023, he has been working at the University of Tokyo, not only establishing internal research security systems but also launching inter-university collaboration organizations in Japan and promoting international partnerships.

In addition, he has extensive international experience, including studying at Columbia University in the United States, and assignments at the JETRO Düsseldorf Center and the Embassy of Japan in Australia. He assumed his current position in July 2025. He is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the United States.

In his current role, he serves as the Director General of the Innovation Strategy Center (TSC), overseeing all TSC activities, including the formulation of the Innovation Outlook and the promotion of the Frontier Development Program.