

Katsuaki WATANABE

Chairman

“Committee on Information and Telecommunication Policy” of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)

President

Toyota Motor Corporation

Katsuaki Watanabe earned a degree in economics from Tokyo's Keio University, and joined Toyota upon graduating in 1964. He has gained experience in a broad range of activity at Toyota, primarily in corporate planning and administrative affairs. Mr. Watanabe became the general manager of the Secretarial Division in 1988, and moved to the Corporate Planning Division as general manager in 1989.

In his work as general manager of the Corporate Planning Division, Mr. Watanabe participated in charting and communicating a common, long-term vision for Toyota operations around the world. Named to the Board of Directors in 1992, he continued to supervise work in production control, including supervising Toyota's Motomachi Plant, which makes passenger cars. In 1999, Mr. Watanabe was appointed a senior managing director, after which he assumed the position of executive vice president in 2001. In June 2005, Mr. Watanabe assumed the position of president of TMC.

Also, since 2007 Mr. Watanabe has been chairing “Committee on Information and Telecommunication Policy” of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation).

The committee has been promoting the establishment of advanced ICT network and its utilization to make Japan the world's most advanced ICT nation. Its activities also focus to improve the quality of life and industrial competitiveness in ICT arena. The committee issues various policy proposals to Japanese government, which are adopted to government's strategic policies such as “New IT Reform Strategy”.

Mr. Watanabe was born in 1942, in Mie Prefecture. He grew up in Aichi Prefecture and now lives in Toyota City. An amateur musician, he sings in a men's chorus, and he also likes to play golf and tennis. Mr. Watanabe and his wife, Chiharu, have three daughters.