



Minako Wakabayashi

Partner

Tokyo

T +81 3 3224 2926

E mwakabayashi@orrick.com

Minako plays a vital role in the rise of Japan's renewable energy market.

Practice Areas

- Renewable Energy
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Japan

Honors

- Named to *A Word About Wind's* Top 100 Legal Power List (2020)
- *IFLR*, Energy and Infrastructure, Project Development, Japan, 2020
- *Lawyer Monthly* Legal Awards 2017 and 2018, Energy & Natural Resources, Law Firm of the Year, Japan
- *The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific*, Japan: Projects and Energy (2020)
- *Chambers Asia Pacific*, Project & Energy: International, Japan, 2016 and 2020
- *Law 360*, Project Finance Group of the Year, 2016
- Mining, Energy & Natural Resources Lawyer of the Year - Japan, *Finance Monthly* Global Awards 2014

Education

Minako has significant experience advising international and domestic sponsors and developers on complex and innovative projects. She was called upon by the Japanese government in structuring the renewable Feed-in-Tariff scheme in Japan and prepared the government's model contracts for specific contracts (power purchase contract/interconnection contract), which are a key component of the Feed-in-Tariff scheme in Japan.

Backed by her experience in her prior career as a public prosecutor in Japan, she also serves as a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Supervising Committee for Public Bidding (Tokyo-to Nyusatsu Kanshi linkai) which advocates public rights to the fairness and adequacy of the public bidding procedures of the government. Minako practiced at Orrick's New York office in 2004-2005.

Representative Engagements

- Setouchi Future Creations LLC, a special purpose company consisting of GE Energy Financial Services, Toyo Engineering and Kuni Umi Asset Management, in securing \$1.1 billion debt and equity financing for Japan's largest solar facility (231MW).
- Green Power Investment Corp. (GPI) in its development of 126.5 MW wind energy project in Japan. The project located in Tsugaru City, Aomori Prefecture in the northern part of Japan. This will be the largest wind energy project in Japan.
- Pattern Energy Group LP (Pattern Development) and Green Power Investments (GPI) in connection with the approximately \$325.5 million sale of 206 megawatts of owned capacity in Japanese wind and solar projects to Pattern Energy Group Inc.
- GE Financial Services, Pattern Energy Group and Green Power Investment Corporation in their development of, and the over JPY 10 billion syndicated project financing for, one of the largest mega solar projects in the Kanto area surrounding Tokyo.
- A Japanese company investing in the first utility-scale solar PV project finance in the United States which was awarded "Renewables Deal of the Year 2010" by Project Finance International.
- A Japanese company in the formation and structuring of a \$200 million wind power investment fund which has been the world's largest of its kind.

Publications

- Quoted, "The Bill of the Act to Partially Amend the Electricity Business Act and Other Acts in Order to Establish a Resilient and Sustainable Electricity Supply System" to be enforced in April 2022 – Orrick Tokyo Law Offices Concerned about

- LL.M., University of Chicago Law School, 2004
- B.A., Economics, Keio University, 1996

Memberships

- New York State Bar Association
- Tokyo Bar Association

- Expiration Deadlines” (The New Energy Business News, July 2020)
- Quoted, “PV Third-Party Ownership - Expectations for Corporate PPA” (*Energy Creation, Saving, Storage News*, April 2020)
- Quoted, “Drastic Amendments to FIT: To Enhance Competition or Regional Coexistence? – Provisional Arrangement from the Mass Introduction of Renewable Energy Committee” (The New Energy Business News, September 2019)
- Quoted, “Mimasaka City Submits a New Tax on Solar Panels in June - It will be the first prefecture to establish a special purpose tax, affecting the credibility of the Japanese legal system” (The New Energy Business News, June 2019)
- Interview, “Increase in the Sale of Large-Scale Solar Projects – The Impact of Departing Foreign-Owned Domestic Businesses” (New Energy News, May 2019)
- Co-Author, “Key Points in Renewable Energy Financing Under the Japanese Feed-In-Tariff (FIT),” (JOI Magazine, July 2012)
- Co-Author, “Green Rush Hits Japan,” (M&A Review, Vol. 26, No. 3, May 2012)

Speeches and Programs

- Speaker, “Renewable Green Rush Continues” (U.S. Embassy Event, March 2016)
- Speaker, “Key Points in Renewable Energy Financing Under Japanese FIT (Feed-In-Tariff),” (Joint seminar with the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment, May 2012)

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Admissions

- New York
- Japan