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## **Makoto Washizu**

Mr. Makoto Washizu is the President of Japan International Transport Institute, USA (JITI). Prior to the assumption of his current position, he was an Ambassador of Japan to the Slovak Republic and had been working as the Deputy Vice-Minister for Tourism Policy of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) where he had held many important positions since joining in 1972.

As the Deputy Vice-Minister for Tourism and the Director-General of the Tourism Department, he devoted himself to promoting tourism including the “Visit Japan Campaign,” which started in April 2003 and set a target of 10 million foreign visitors to Japan in 2010.

He also served as the Director-General of the Maritime Bureau and the Director-General for Policy Planning which targeted anti-terrorism policies.

Mr. Washizu has had an additional diplomatic career as a Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Tokyo in 1972 and was a Postgraduate student at the Institute of Transport Economics, University of Leeds, U.K. in 1977-8.