

**Kenji Sato**

***Director Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center (JASIC),
Washington Office***

Kenji Sato is currently the Director of the Washington office of Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center (JASIC). Mr. Sato joined the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) in April 2002, where he has served at the National Transport Safety and Environment Laboratory (NTSEL) in Japan and the Road Transport Bureau.

At the NTSEL, Mr. Sato coordinated a wide variety of activities, including strategic planning, as the Director of the Planning Office (2013-2015). He reviewed all research plans prior to, and periodically during, implementation to ensure they aligned with MLIT's regulatory and research priorities. While at the Road Transport Bureau, Mr. Sato worked as the Deputy Director of the Engineering Policy Division (2011-2013) and Senior Planning Officer for User Information (2009-2011) in the Vehicle and Components Approvals Division. During his tenure as the Senior Planning Officer for User Information, Mr. Sato upgraded enforcement regulations to require manufacturers to implement vehicle recalls earlier and worked to more effectively provide consumers with information on recalls. He was also engaged in modifying the Japan New Car Assessment Program (JNCAP) to better protect pedestrians, which included introducing a new overall rating system that combined the pedestrian and passenger ratings and implementing pedestrian leg protection as a new criteria for rating. He has also held several positions in various sectors of the MLIT, including the Railway Bureau, the Civil Aviation Bureau, and the Maritime Bureau.

Mr. Sato received his Bachelor and Master of Engineering from Kyoto University and also holds a Master of Public Policy from UCLA.