



Nicholas Benes Biography

EconVue Expert

Nicholas Benes heads up The Board Director Training Institute of Japan, a government-certified nonprofit specializing in director training. Trained as a lawyer and MBA, he was an investment banker at JP Morgan for 11 years, after which he established a path-breaking M&A advisory boutique in Japan. A fluent speaker of Japanese, Mr. Benes has sat on a number of corporate boards and has been active in policy advocacy in Japan. In 2013, he proposed that the creation of a corporate governance code be included in the LDP's growth strategy. He then advised members of the diet and the FSA, with regard to the drafting process and the content of Japan's first corporate governance code.

Earlier, in 2010, Mr. Benes had proposed and led analysis and production of the *Growth Strategy Task Force White Paper*, published by the American Chamber in Japan (ACCJ), which focused on the urgent need to raise productivity growth and economic metabolism in Japan, and proposed a range of concrete policies for doing that. In 2013, this White Paper served as the intellectual underpinning for Abenomics' "Third Arrow", and enabled Mr. Benes to successfully propose Japan's corporate governance code.

Mr. Benes received his B.A. in political science from Stanford University, and a JD-MBA degree from UCLA. He is an inactive member of the bar in California and New York. Currently, he serves the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) as Chair of its Growth Strategy Task Force. In the past, he served as a twice-elected Governor of the ACCJ, Chair of the ACCJ's FDI Committee and FDI Task Force, and as a member of the Experts Committee of the Japan Investment Council, an advisory committee to the Japanese Cabinet on FDI policy. He has also served as an independent outside director at Alps Mapping, the listed company Cecile Ltd., and Livedoor Holdings (post-scandal); and currently is an independent director at Imagica Robot Holdings, Inc. (TSE6879). Mr. Benes has taught corporate governance and business ethics as an Adjunct Professor at Hitotsubashi University and the International University of Japan. In 2010, he was a member of the Financial Services Agency's Corporate Governance Liaison Committee, which had been formed to provide private sector input to the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Affairs Advisory Council regarding amendment of Japan's Company Law.