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Takashi Shiraishi, born in 1950 in Japan; majored in international relations at the University of Tokyo (1972) and obtained Ph.D. in History from Cornell University in 1986. He taught at the University of Tokyo (1979-1987), Cornell University (1987-1998), Kyoto University (1996-2005), and National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) (2005-2009). He served as Executive Member, Council for Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office (2009-2012), President, GRIPS (2011-2017), President, Institute of Developing Economies- JETRO (2007-2018) and University Professor, Ritsumeikan University (2017-2018). He currently serves as Chancellor, Prefectural University of Kumamoto (since 2018).

He also served as editor, Indonesia, Cornell South-east Asia Program (1987-2005) and editor-in-chief, nippon.com, a multi-lingual online journal (2011-2014). He was awarded the Medal with Purple Ribbon in 2007, and designated to the Order of Cultural Merit, 2016. In 2017, he received the Medal of Bintang Jasa Utama from the Republic of Indonesia for his contribution to Indonesian economic and education fields.